



NAA

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

CASTLESHAW ROMAN FORTS SADDLEWORTH GREATER MANCHESTER

prepared for
Castleshaw Working Party

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			Prepared by	Edited by	Approved by
		Name	Penny Middleton	Mary Fraser	Tania Simpson

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Report Author: Penny Middleton

Mapping/Illustration: Penny Middleton and Cath Chisman

Ecological input by Teresa Hughes, Senior Ecologist, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

Additional Archaeological input on Roman Archaeology by Mike Bishop

Editing: Mary Fraser and Tania Simpson

Summary

Situated on a spur of exposed pasture beneath the looming expanse of the Pennine uplands, the Roman fort, and later fortlet, of Castleshaw provides a remarkable opportunity to explore and understand something of life under military occupation in the 1st and 2nd century AD. It is perhaps fair to say that the Roman period, more than any other in our history, has the power to capture the imagination. There are numerous sites still clearly visible in the landscape - roads, forts, towns and villas – which have fascinated archaeologists and antiquarians for centuries. Roman military archaeology in particular has a special interest and has been the focus of more research than any other aspect of the period.

The national significance of the Castleshaw forts is recognised in their status as a scheduled monument. Designated in 1935, the site was one of the first sites in the country to be afforded such special protection, and is one of only 180 or so known Roman auxiliary forts and just 80 fortlets (excluding those along Hadrian's Wall) surviving across the country. This alone would make Castleshaw of considerable importance, but it is the range and preservation of material which, together, makes it exceptional. Excavations have so far identified a section of the main trans-Pennine Roman road (Margary 712) running between the legionary fortresses at York (Eboracum) and Chester (Deva); an early example of an unmodified 1st century AD timber auxiliary fort; a later 2nd century AD fortlet, and an associated civilian settlement (*vicus*). The presence of all four of these elements at a single site provides an almost unparalleled opportunity to study the development of Roman military infrastructure in the 1st and early 2nd century, as well as learn something of the day-to-day lives of those who lived and died within its shadow.

Castleshaw has been the focus of over 100 years of research and excavation and during this period a number of key themes have been explored. In terms of the 1st century fort, these centre around: establishing a foundation date for the complex and associated road network (evidence now suggests this might be earlier than previously believed); the arrangement of the interior and defences, and the nature of subsequent abandonment. The 2nd century fortlet has been the focus of more recent investigation and, as a consequence, we understand more about this than its earlier predecessor. This research has prompted discussion on the role of military control during the 2nd century Roman occupation and whether Castleshaw was acting as a supply centre at this time rather than a more traditional garrison post. The discovery of an associated civilian settlement (*vicus*) nearby also raises interesting questions about its function and relationship with the fortlet, its occupants and impact on the local population and surrounding landscape, as well as the process of decommissioning and any subsequent occupation or later phases of re-use.

In terms of the wider cultural significance of the site, the long sequence of excavations and investigation, stretching back to the mid 18th century, tracks the development of antiquarianism and the birth of archaeology as a modern discipline. Associated with this are figures of some renown,

including Sir Ian Richmond, later Professor of Roman Archaeology at the University of Oxford, and Ammon Wrigley, the local poet and writer, who 'rediscovered' the site in the late 19th century, as well as Thomas Percival who, when not plotting the course of Roman roads, was the author of the first code of medical ethics in 1794. Castleshaw has also witnessed the development of archaeological field methods over the last century, beginning with the enthusiastic, but rather random, test pitting of Ammon Wrigley, to the more informed excavations of Bruton and the later training excavations of Manchester University, and finally, the open area excavations and variation of single context recording used by GMAU.

The community significance of the site is multi-faceted but the level of interest shown during the public consultation phase is testimony to the degree of affection in which Castleshaw is held. It is one of the very few sites in the region where there is open access to Roman military archaeology, the nearest others being Manchester, York and Chester. It is also an important stop-off point for ramblers, long distance walkers, day-visitors and mountain bikers, as well as a focus for numerous educational activities organised through the Castleshaw Centre. There is undoubtedly a huge amount of civic pride tied up in the site and a strong connection with local identity, which goes beyond the historic and archaeological significance and taps into the powerful aesthetic and emotional responses which Castleshaw evokes. So many people mentioned the importance of the peaceful isolation of the location and how it still encapsulated the harshness and remoteness of frontier life. The natural environment is obviously a key factor contributing to this appeal and, although not of exceptional significance in ecological terms, the site does support several habitat communities including skylark, lapwing and curlew along with the mammals like water vole and hare.

The challenge now facing the future management of Castleshaw is to enhance and develop the considerable community significance of the site, without jeopardising the isolation and unique 'sense of place' which makes it so special. There are a limited number of maintenance issues such as intermittent vandalism, litter dropping, signage clutter, problems with vegetation and balancing grazing regimes, which are a minor risk to the significance of the site. The majority of these can be mitigated through discussion, the formation of agreed management policies and regular monitoring; all of which are minimal cost. However, the greatest threat to the site's significance today is the condition of the 1st century fort and paucity of interpretation material available; although steps have been taken recently to improve this by the introduction of new display panels.

The greatest on-site obstacle to an understanding of the monument is the poor state of the Flavian fort. Open trenches and spoil left by the excavations in the first half of the 20th century obscure the outline of the fort making it difficult to see and also to visualise how it once might have looked. The open excavations are also a health and safety issue and create problems in terms of disabled access. Prior to the work of the GMAU and associated parties in the 1980s, the condition of the fort and fortlet were very similar, but now the latter stands in marked contrast to its predecessor. The partially

restored ramparts and turf interior of the fortlet make it more visible and easier to understand; so much so, that some visitors initially believe the fortlet constitutes the whole site.

It is, therefore, recommended that one of the best ways to improve and enhance Castleshaw would be to commission a programme of consolidation and partial restoration similar to that undertaken at the fortlet. This would have three main advantages: first, to stabilise the condition of the site by improving drainage and reducing the risk of erosion; second, it would improve the access, presentation and interpretation of the site enormously, and finally it would offer a wonderful opportunity to get the public involved in community archaeology and continue the long tradition of archaeological exploration at the site. Such a programme of work would be dependent on securing permission of English Heritage and the landowner (United Utilities), as well as substantial funding, not only for field work but also consolidation, post excavation analysis, reporting, finds storage, conservation and archiving.

As well as a potential community excavation, there are a huge range of other opportunities to improve site presentation and interpretation. Traditional methods of site presentation, including reconstruction and exposed excavation, require continual maintenance and long-term financial commitment. There are also important conservation 'best practice' issues to be considered as well as potential conflicts with the site's sense of peace and isolation. Instead, opportunity for an exciting programme of 'virtual' presentation should be explored which together could provide an integrated rolling programme of online interactive material combined with targeted on-site events. These would include a dedicated Castleshaw website; downloadable thematic tours designed for all ages; audio tours that can be downloaded straight to an MP3 player; teacher's pack and interactive activities, as well as a mobile exhibition to tour local libraries and community centres.

Overall, the future vision for Castleshaw will be to provide a stimulating and educational visitor experience for all, bringing Castleshaw's Roman past to life, whilst still preserving the isolation and 'edge of civilisation' feeling, so central to its unique 'sense of place'. The site will provide visitors with a good understanding of life in the Castleshaw valley during the 1st and 2nd century AD, as well as placing the forts in a wider regional and national context. It will be a focus for education, healthy exercise, recreation and an appreciation of the natural environment and as such, an asset to Oldham, United Utilities, the local community, and all other users.

"The poetry of history lies in the quasi-miraculous fact that once, on this earth, once, on this familiar spot of ground, walked other men and women, as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions, but now all gone, one generation vanishing into another, gone as utterly as we ourselves shall shortly be gone, like ghosts at cockcrow."

G.M. Trevelyan (1876-1962)

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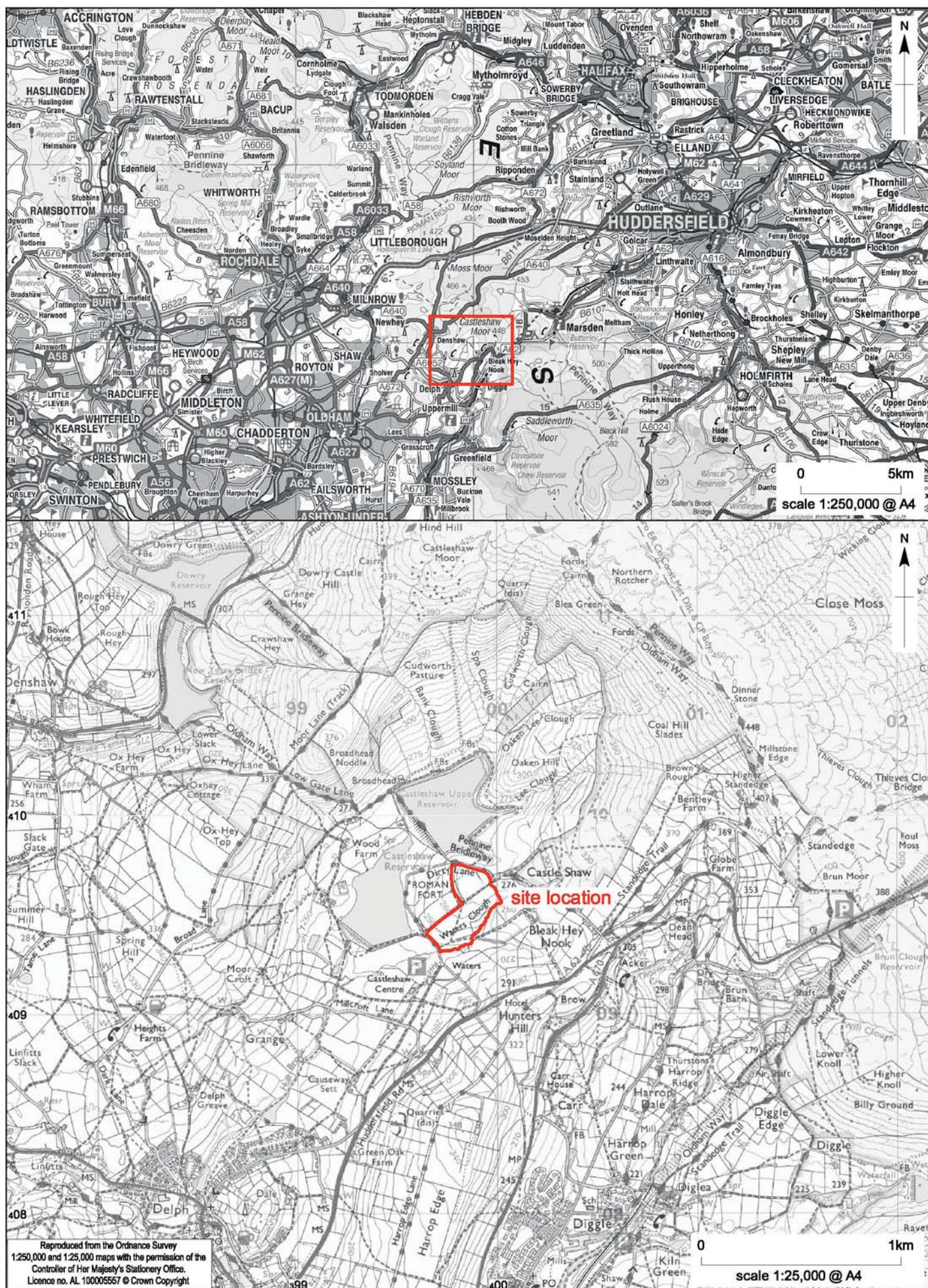
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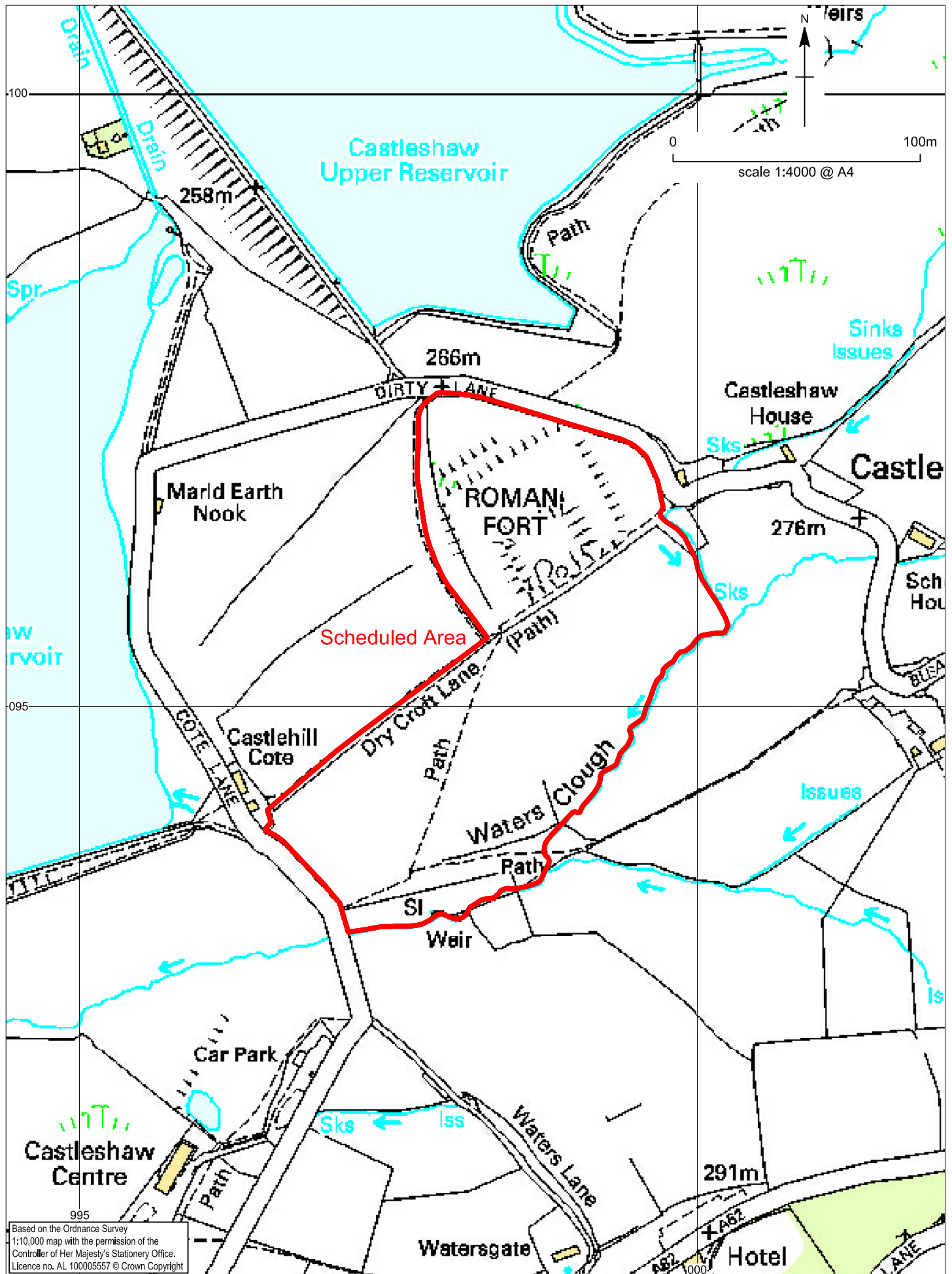
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Conservation Management Plan (the Plan) was commissioned by the Castleshaw Working Party (CWP) and is intended to develop a strategy for the informed management, conservation and presentation of Castleshaw Roman fort and fortlet; a nationally important, and much loved, heritage asset. The CWP is a steering group comprising individuals from a number of different fields and institutions, including the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts (FCRF), Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, the Saddleworth Parish Council, English Heritage, United Utilities (landowner) and the local archaeological and historic societies, who are committed to securing the future of the site.

Developing a successful conservation strategy must be based on a sound understanding of the various aspects which contribute to make Castleshaw special – i.e. the multi-faceted elements which contribute to its significance. The first section of the Plan explores these various elements including visitor enjoyment, setting and educational potential, as well as archaeological, historic and ecological importance. This is followed by an assessment of significance and a consideration of the various factors which might potentially jeopardise significance in the future. It ends with a list of proposals and an Action Plan to address these issues and ensure the future preservation, accessibility and enjoyment of the site for all.

Brief Site Description

The Roman fort, and later fortlet, at Castleshaw is set on a small spur of land on the eastern slopes of the Castleshaw valley (Figure 1). The exact date of the foundation of the first fort is still open to debate but it is believed to have been constructed around AD 79 as part of Agricola's northern campaigns. The fort was built as one of a series of military bases positioned along the course of the trans-Pennine Roman road which linked together the important fortresses at Chester (Deva) and York (Eboracum) and facilitated the movement of troops and supplies across the country. Castleshaw is one of a series of forts located along the course of the road; located a day's march (26km) east of the fort of Mamucium (Manchester) and 8km west of the fort at Slack, near Huddersfield.

The layout of the 1st century Flavian auxiliary fort followed a standard pattern seen across the Empire. It was built to house a cohort of 500 men, predominantly infantry, and comprised a 1.2 hectares square area enclosed by a turf rampart and ditch. The interior of the fort was crossed by two principal streets and evidence of the headquarters building (*principia*), the commandant's house (*praetorium*), barrack blocks (*centuries*) and granaries (*horrea*) have all been found at the site. A number of similar forts were constructed across the North West during this period, including Burrow, Lancaster, Ribchester, Kirkham and Melandra (Arrowsmith *et al* 2006) but excavation at Castleshaw

has shown it was occupied for only a short period of time and had already fallen out of use around AD 90.

A few years later (c. AD 105) it was replaced by a much smaller fortlet built within the footprint of the larger fort and sharing its southern defences. It is the outline of this structure which is clearly visible today. The fortlet housed around only 80 men and would have been a scaled down version of the earlier fort with similar buildings. In addition to the military presence, evidence of a small civilian community (a *vicus*) has also been found, located just outside the southern ramparts. This had grown up in association with the fortlet, housing families, merchants and craftsmen trading local food and goods. The fortlet remained in use until around AD 120 when it was finally slighted and abandoned.

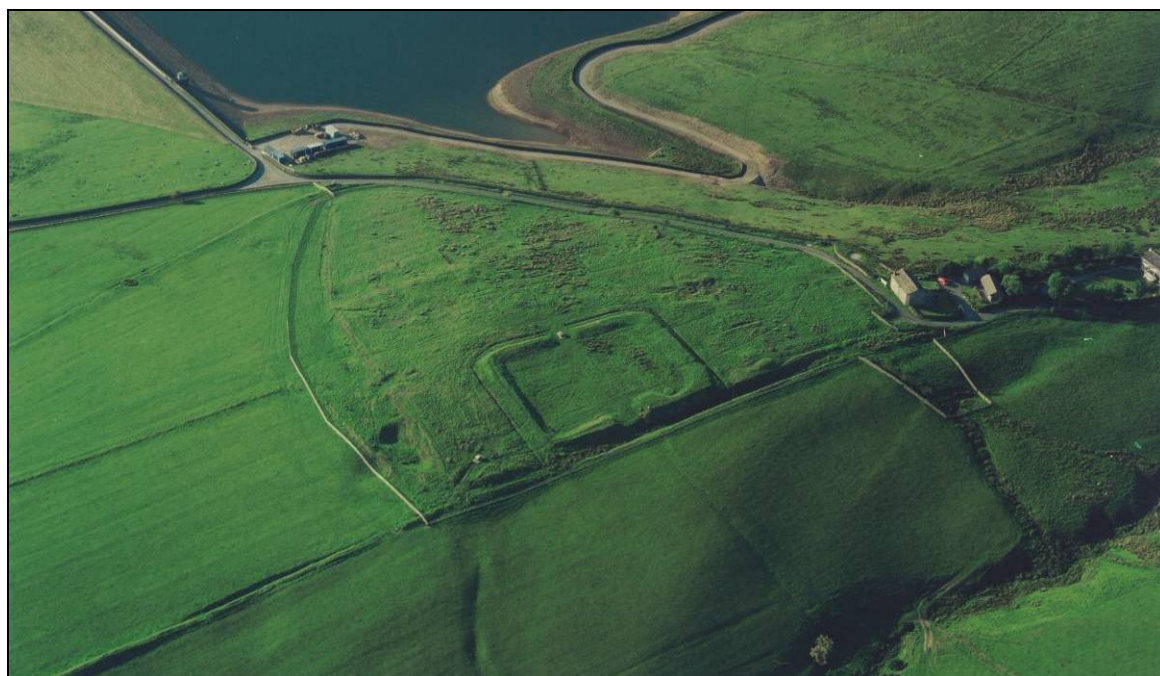


Plate 1: aerial view of the study area clearly showing the outline of the fortlet and the fainter layout of the surrounding fort. © GMAU.

The site then lay unrecognised for nearly sixteen hundred years until 1751 when it was 'rediscovered' by the antiquarian, Thomas Percival. Since then a number of important excavations and surveys have been conducted, the most significant of which were F.A. Bruton's excavations in the early 20th century; a series of training digs run by Manchester University between 1957 and 1964, and the excavation and re-assessment of the fortlet by Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit (GMAU) and the Oldham MBC in the 1980s. Unfortunately, discarded spoil and unfilled excavations associated with the two earlier investigations had obscured the site and left it in a very poor state but following the GMAU excavations a programme of conservation were undertaken across the fortlet to improve this situation. The old excavations in this area were re-opened, cleaned and recorded and

the material from the spoil tips used to restore the ramparts to a quarter of their original height. This work, together with some new areas of excavation employing modern open area excavation techniques, facilitated a much better understanding of the 2nd century fort which has subsequently led to a new interpretation of the role and function of Castleshaw during this later period. As part of the fortlet consolidation work, the lines of the buildings were laid out in grassy mounds as an aid to interpretation and a series of display boards erected.¹

Today, the site is a popular recreation area for local people and visitors alike who come to explore the remains and enjoy the natural landscape and stunning views out across the reservoir and surrounding uplands. It is also an important educational resource, the nearby Castleshaw Centre regularly organising educational visits and activities for schools in Oldham and the Greater Manchester area.

Structure of the Plan

The following Plan has been prepared in stages in accordance with the Heritage Lottery Fund guidance on Conservation Management Planning (HLF 2008). The five stages comprise:

Stage 1 - Understanding the Heritage – This section is intended to provide a sound understanding of the Castleshaw fort and fortlet and its broader context and environment. It includes a summary of the archaeology and also looks at the history of Castleshaw, as well as the lives of those who have researched, investigated and interpreted the site. It considers the ecological significance of the fort and its immediate hinterland, as well as important views and vistas which contribute to Castleshaw's unique environment. Finally this section culminates in a consideration of the cultural importance of Castleshaw to those who live, work and visit the area. Combined, this material informs the second stage of the report – Defining Significance. Where there is a need for further research in order to properly understand significance, this is highlighted as 'Gaps in our Understanding' and listed at the end of each relevant section.

Stage 2 - Defining Significance – Based on the understanding gained through Stage 1, a 'Statement of Significance' has been prepared according to current guidance from English Heritage (English Heritage 2008). This section aims to place the fort and fortlet in a local, regional and national context but also to understand what it is that makes Castleshaw unique. The purpose of this is to ensure that all elements which contribute to this special 'sense of place' are preserved into the future, and any elements which might threaten this - including potential changes - are identified and dealt with appropriately.

Stage 3 - Protecting Significance – based on the site assessments and public consultation, this

¹ In 2011 these were in the process of being updated with newly commissioned interpretation panels.

section discusses those key risks and issues associated with the forts, alongside any potential opportunities to improve and enhance the site for the enjoyment of the public. A series of policies have been formulated to address the issues raised in this section. Although often included in a separate section in many Conservation Management Plans, the current document places proposed policy alongside the issue they address so that the cause and solution is more immediate and apparent.

Stage 5 – Managing the Future – The Plan culminates in a costed Action Plan which is divided into a short, mid and long term strategy for the conservation of the fabric of the site, as well as a plan for improving and enhancing the Castleshaw forts as a public heritage asset.

Terminology

There are a number of Latin terms and names regularly used in discussions and descriptions of Roman archaeology and a select glossary of these has been included in the appendices (Appendix 2). In general the modern English term will be used unless to do so obscures the issue under discussion. Proper names are referred to when they denote specific elements of the site such as the Commandant's House, but where such terms occur without capitalisation then the term is used descriptively rather than referring to a specific structure. Fortlet has been used throughout for the 2nd century when referring to the smaller Trajanic fort. All other spellings and site names are after Booth (Booth 2001).



Plate 2: view out across the fortlet, the lines of the building just visible in the raised outlines laid out following the GMAU excavations in the 1980s.

Scope of the Project

The project area covers the entirety of the 8.2 hectare scheduled site (Figure 2) which extends north-

east to Dirty Lane then follows the course of the road round to the west before looping round the western side of the fort to join with Drycroft Lane. This is the medieval lane which runs north-east to link with the hamlet of Castle Shaw. The scheduling boundary runs south-west along the lane to join with Cote Lane. It then runs south-east until Waters Clough and follows the water course back towards the hamlet. Originally the scheduled area only comprised the fort and fortlet but following the identification of an associated civilian settlement (*vicus*) in Daycroft Field to the south of the site (Redhead 1999), the boundary was extended to include the whole of the area up to the Clough.

In order to understand the development of Castleshaw within its broader historic landscape, sites outside the immediate project area have been considered where relevant. This is particularly important in assessing the significance of the forts within a wider regional, national and international context.

Consultation and Stakeholders

A number of official bodies, interest groups and individuals have been consulted during the preparation of this Plan and every effort has been made to confer with as many people as possible (although not all responded). The following list of stakeholders is divided into two groups; the first are those people who have some day-to-day involvement with the site, either in terms of management or as regular users, and the second group are interested parties contacted during the review and consultation exercise including potential new users.

Those stakeholders' groups identified as playing a key role in the future of Castleshaw Roman forts area are listed below (in no specific order):

The Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (Norman Redhead*, County Archaeologist)
Saddleworth North Ward and Parish Council (Cllr Mike Buckley*)
English Heritage (Andrew Davison*, Inspector of Ancient Monuments)
United Utilities, the landowners (Peter Sharples*, Manager and Morgana Restall*, Warden)
Castleshaw's tenant farmer (David Hirst)
Castleshaw Centre (Dave Faulconbridge*, Manager)
Saddleworth Museum (Peter Fox, Curator)
Oldham Museum (Sean Baggaley, Curator of Archaeology)
Manchester Metropolitan Borough Council (Imogen Fuller*, Regeneration Officer and Karen Heverin*, Conservation Officer)
Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts (Alan Schofield*, Treasurer)
Saddleworth Archaeological Trust (Ken Booth*, Chair and David Chadderton* Hon. Secretary)
Saddleworth Historical Society (Jim Carr*)
Saddleworth Parish Council (Tony Marlor)

Pennine Prospects (Gavin Edwards*, Community Archaeologist)

* a member of the Castleshaw Working Party (CWP). Contact details of members are included in Appendix 1.

Other parties consulted include:

- Local community associations
- Local schools across Oldham
- Local outdoor groups
- Saddleworth Civic Society
- Saddleworth Business Association
- Saddleworth Women's Institute
- Walking and ramblers groups
- The White Rose Society

A full list of interest groups consulted is included in Appendix 1a.

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Location

Castleshaw (SD 99849 09638) is located 1.7km north-west of Diggle; approximately 5km south of Saddleworth and 13km south-west of Oldham within the Southern Pennines (Figure 1). It forms part of the civil parish of Saddleworth, historically part of the West Riding of Yorkshire and now an administrative district of the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham in Greater Manchester.

The fort site lies just to the west of the present settlement of Castle Shaw which today comprises a handful of properties at the junction of Dirty Lane and Bleak Hey Nook Lane. Foot access to the site can be gained from the hamlet via a stile from Bleak Hey Nook Lane. Disabled access is similarly from this side of the site through a gate located on Dirty Lane which lies just to the north of a single disabled parking bay. However, the main approach to the site is from the public car park off of Waterworks Lane, just north-west of the Castleshaw Centre. A footpath leads from the car park, across Cote Lane to enter Daycroft Field via a signposted wooden gate. The fort is divided from Daycroft Field by a wooden post and bar fence, erected relatively recently to enable better stock management across this more sensitive area of the site.

Ownership

The project area, including the forts and Daycroft Field, is under the ownership of United Utilities who own and manage the two nearby Castleshaw Reservoirs. It is currently leased to David Hirst of Wood Farm, whose family has long associations with the area.

Historic Environment Designations

Scheduled Monument

Castleshaw fort and fortlet is a Scheduled Monument, first designated in 1935 (SM 45891; Mon. No 1017837) and is protected under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. The site originally only comprised the area of the forts enclosed by the wooden fence but was extended in 1998 following the discovery of the potential civilian settlement (*vicus*) (Figure 2).

Previously known as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), these sites are monitored and identified by English Heritage but legislated by Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (CMS). Scheduling is the only form of legal protection applicable to archaeological sites and covers both above and below ground archaeology.

Listed Buildings

There are no listed buildings within the project area but there are twenty designated properties within a 1km radius, the setting of which could be potentially affected by any future changes made to the site. Given the nature of the surrounding landscape only eleven are likely to be affected visually by any development such as a visitor's centre, but setting also covers a range of other factors which could potentially alter amenity or an understanding of a property within its landscape. As such, the following listed buildings may also need to be considered in advance of any potential future developments.

Table 1a: *Listed buildings visible to and from Castleshaw forts*

LB No.	Building name	Grade	Easting	Northing
212076	Castle Hill Cote	II	399625	212076
212039	Higher Castleshaw Cottages	II	400174	212039
212038	Higher Castleshaw Farmhouse	II	400198	212038
212019	View Banks	II	400428	212019
212018	Fair View	II	400434	212018
212020	Outbuilding adjoining west of View Banks	II	400425	212020
212011	Nook Farmhouse	II	400469	212011
212017	Moorlands Cottage	II	400444	212017
212015	Well Croft and Well Croft House	II	400482	212015
212010	Hook Farm Cottage	II	400501	212010
212016	Moorlands	II	400454	212016
212169	Pack Horse Slack Farmhouse	II	399691	212169
212042	Wood Farmhouse and adjoining barns	II	399237	212042
212040	Low Bank	II	399264	212040
212037	Broadhead	II	399532	212037
212314	Brow Farmhouse	II	400499	212314
212041	Wood Barn Farmhouse and adjoining barn	II	399187	212041

Table 1b: *Listed buildings within a 1km but not necessarily visible from the site*

212315	Carr House	II	400222	212315
212312	Ackers Farmhouse	II	400610	212312
212311	Carr Head Cottage	II	400233	212311

Conservation Areas

Bleak Hey Nook, 600m north-east of the site, is a Conservation Area and includes all but the top three of those listed buildings detailed in Table 1a. Further down the Castleshaw valley is the Grange Conservation Area, located 1.25km south-west of the site, and just beyond this is Delph (2km away). Diggle and nearby Harrop Green, lie 1.7km to the south-east, divided from the Castleshaw valley by Harrop Edge, and to the west is Denshaw (2.5km away) separated by the Tame valley.

There are no other historic environment designations within the vicinity of the monument.

Natural Environment Designations

SSSI, SAC and SPA

The Pennine hills and moors support important European and UK habitats and have been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the European Union's Habitats Directive; a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a UK wildlife designation recognising the significance of both habitats and bird assemblages². These areas are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). The boundaries of all three designations are contiguous in the area close to Castleshaw, and lie just 1km to the north and east of the Roman forts.

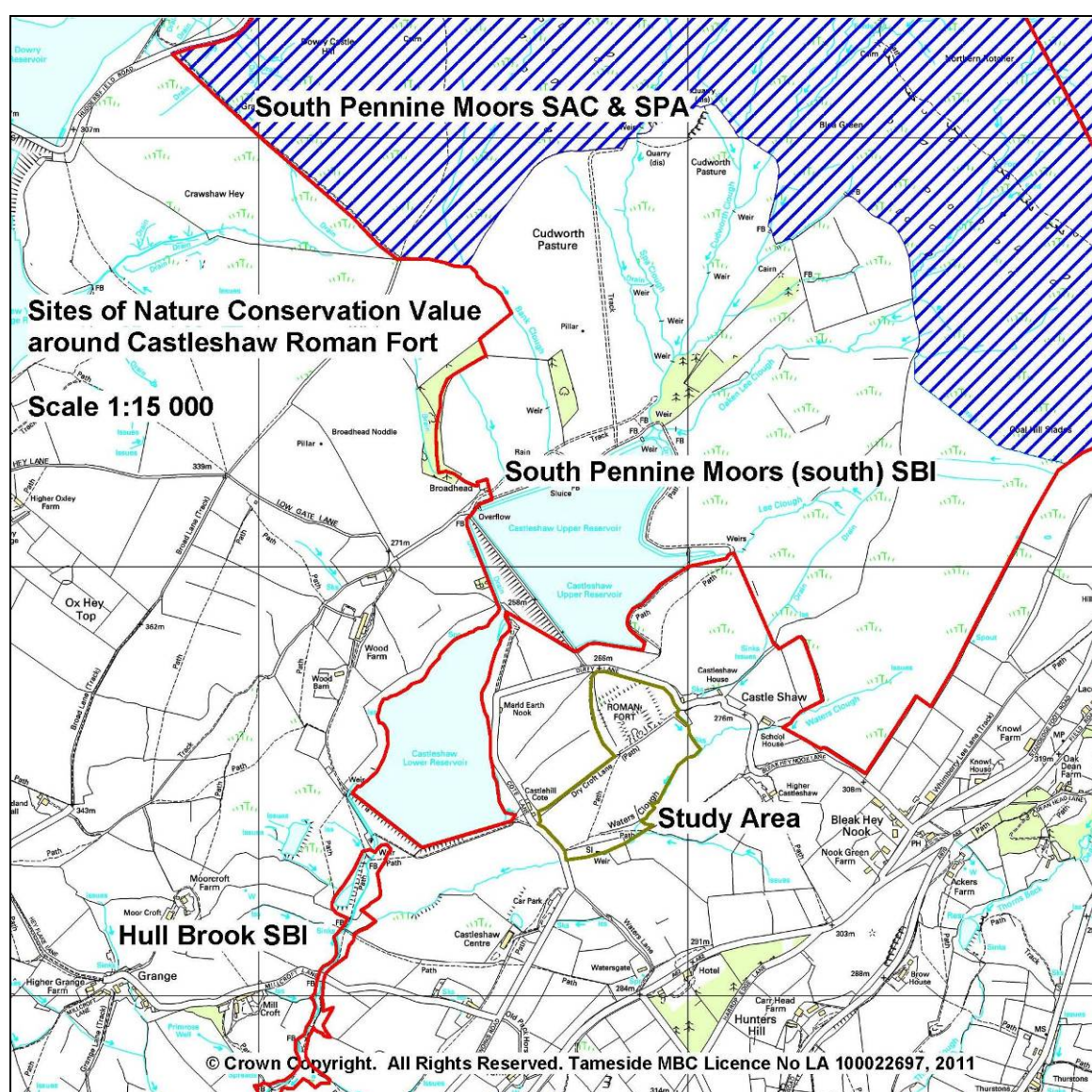


Figure 3: Ecological designations around Castleshaw.

² Further information on these designations can be found on the Natural England website <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx>

Sites of Biological Importance (SBI)

Other sites of value for wildlife/biodiversity also occur in close proximity to the project area. These sites are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), which in Greater Manchester are named Sites of Biological Importance.³ SBIs are non-statutory designations which are used for planning purposes within the Town & Country Planning Act system. Castleshaw lies within the vicinity of the South Pennine Moors and Hull Brook SBIs. The South Pennine Moors SBI is selected on the basis of the same habitat communities and assemblages as the statutorily protected sites, but extends more widely to include the Castleshaw Reservoirs and in-by land. The reservoirs and in-by land support additional breeding and feeding birds which include oystercatcher, redshank and ringed plover and Canada geese. It is recognised within the SAC description that such areas are important to sustaining the populations of the breeding birds. Hull Brook has been selected as a good example of a natural headwater and for the quality of the watercourse and the adjacent marsh habitats. Both Hull Brook SBI and the South Pennine Moors SBI support the statutorily protected native white-clawed crayfish and a good population of water vole occur on the Brook.

The proximity of these designations to the monument could have a direct implication on the management of the heritage resource. In the first instance, any planned remedial or conservation works would need to take into consideration any potential impact on the ecology of the protected area, both direct and indirect. Some proposed heritage management actions might even come into direct conflict with natural environment concerns – and vice versa – in which case issues need to be taken into consideration early in the decision making process and resolved appropriately to protect all elements.

2.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Geology

The underlying geology of the area comprises the Millstone Grit sandstones (gritstone) and Coal Measure Series of the carboniferous period. The Castleshaw forts lie at a transition between the older Yoredale Series and the later Millstone Grits above. The Yoredale Series comprise a sequence of shale, shale grits, sandstones and dark shales which can be traced along the Pennine anticline from Castleshaw southwards to Greenfield. The fort sits on a step of Grindstone Shale, the last in the Yoredale sequence, just below the junction with the Kinderscout Grits of Standedge (Booth 2001, 2). The Kinderscout Grit is much coarser and often conglomeratic and forms the high hills of the surrounding area. It is laid down into two or three beds with intermediate shales, and it is this combination of coarse gritstone leaved with softer and more easily eroded shales, which gives the area its distinctive stepped landscape (*ibid*).

³ Further information is available at (<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit/sbi>)

Millstone Grit provides the main local building material and has been quarried extensively across the valley. It is durable but difficult to work, a factor reflected in the rather utilitarian and unembellished design of the surrounding vernacular architecture. The stone is also used in the construction of gritstone walls, the traditional boundary form used across both uplands and lowlands.

Landscape Character

Castleshaw lies within the central Pennine belt, on the western slopes of the watershed at Standedge. This is on the southern edge of the Southern Pennines National Character Area (NCA 36) (Figure 3) and borders The Dark Peak (NCA 51); although such landscape boundaries are rather fluid. Both areas are predominantly upland and characterised by extensive area of exposed gritstone moor, deeply entrenched by narrow valleys and wooded cloughs. The Southern Pennines lies between the northern boundary of the Peak District National Park and the southern boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, close to the great conurbations of Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. The landscape comprises a mixed mosaic of bleak moorland, punctuated by rocky outcrops and blanket bog, across the uplands and enclosed in-by pasture on the hillslopes at lower elevations (Natural England 2011). However, the proximity of the area to major urban centres has had a considerable impact on the landscape over the last three centuries. As a consequence, unlike the adjacent Dark Peak NCA, any areas of unspoilt wilderness are at a premium.

The Castleshaw Roman forts are located within an area of enclosed pasture just to the west of the present hamlet of Castle Shaw. The site lies on a spur of flat land on the eastern slopes of the valley at a height of 275m OD. It is overlooked by high ground on three sides, the landform rising steadily from west to east. To the north stretches the wild expanse of Standedge reaching a height of 450m OD along the outcrop of Millstone Edge. Castleshaw Moor lies to the north-west of the site (425m OD) and a high ridge extends south-west dividing the Castleshaw and Tame valleys. To the south-east, the eastern end of the Harrop Ridge (350m OD) separates Castleshaw from Diggle. The only area of low ground lies to the south-west, along the course of the Castleshaw Brook (now known as Hull Brook) where the ground drops to just 200m OD around Delph, before rising steeply again towards Knott Hill and Badger Edge (Figure 1).

Settlement in the area has traditionally been along these water courses - Denshaw (River Tame), Delph (Hull Brook) and Diggle (Diggle Brook). A number of smaller settlements, many of them associated with former mills, are also dotted along the course of Hull Brook (formerly Castleshaw Brook). In the upland areas, settlement is more dispersed with small farmsteads and hamlets clustered along the lower plateaus at the moorland edge. Farming has traditionally been largely pastoral, the moorland providing rough pasture for grazing and enclosed in-by land being used for winter grass production and some arable.

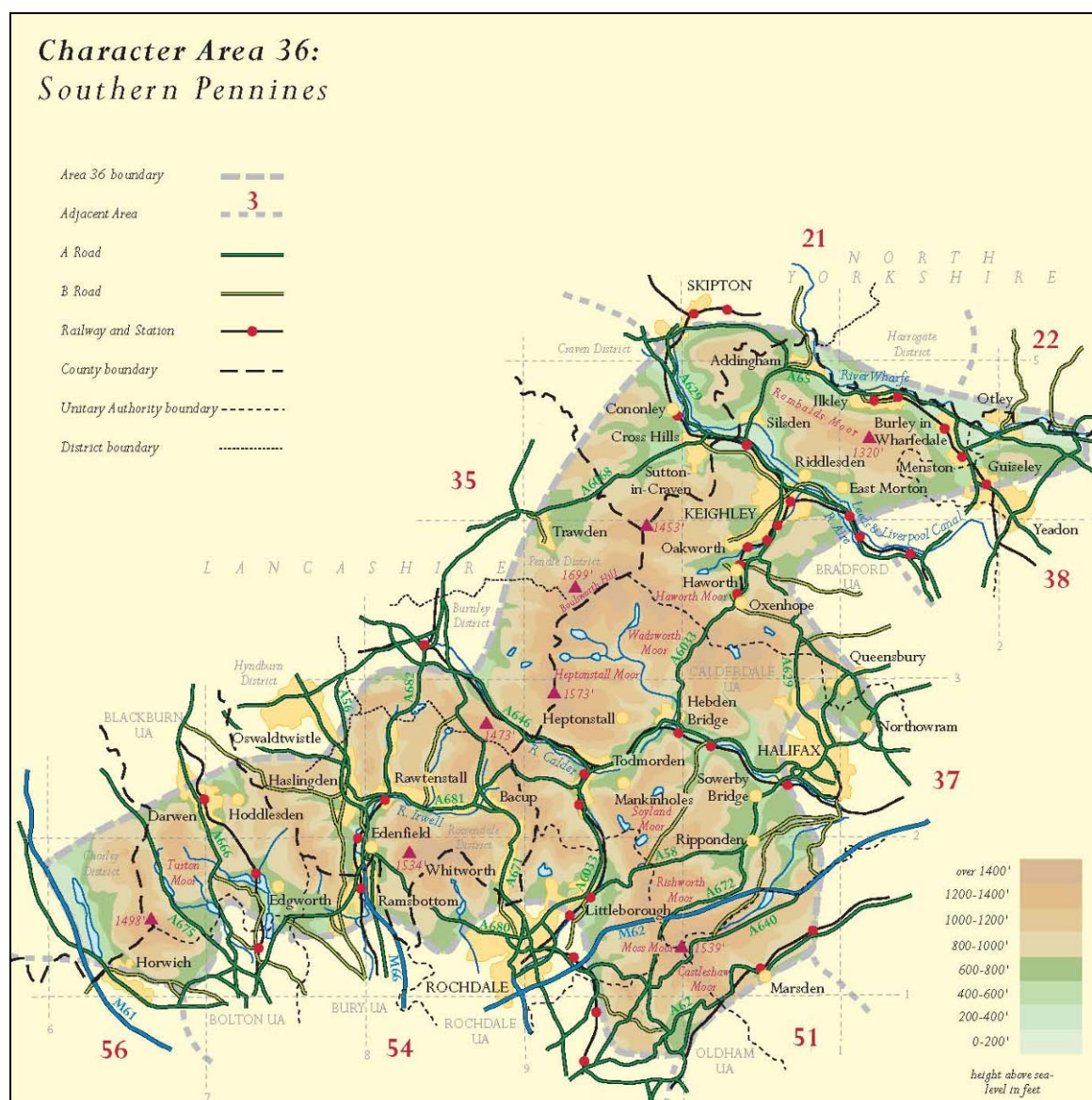


Figure 4: National Character Area map of the Southern Pennines (Natural England 2011, 106).

Alongside agriculture, wool manufacture and textile production have long been the main industries in the region, employing nearly 3,000 people in the Saddleworth area in 1931 (Visions of Britain 2011). However, today the area forms part of the Greater Manchester commuter belt, with the majority of people employed in white collar professions (Office of National Statistics 2011). There is limited evidence of mineral extraction across the uplands although the name of the nearby Coal Hill Slades would indicate some localised mining in the region and there is archaeological evidence of medieval iron working to the west of the site (Redhead 1994; 1996a).

The nature of the local topography has always made transportation and communication through the region difficult, another factor which has contributed to the clustering of settlements along the river valleys. Roads across the uplands are infrequent even today and crossing the vast expanse of inhospitable moor must have seemed a daunting, even if essential, task for the Roman engineers.

However, the Pennines are actually at their narrowest in the Saddleworth area, the plateau being only 0.8km wide at Standedge before the descent into the Colne valley. This natural crossing place has been utilised for centuries, not only by the Romans but also by later road, canal and railway builders. All have used Standedge, together with Blackstone Edge to the north, and Woodhead to the south, to cross the country from east to west (Arrowsmith 2010; Booth 2001).

Views (Figure 5)

The sweeping landscape around Castleshaw provides a number of inspiring views and vistas both to and from the Roman forts. Arguably, the most impressive is the 360 degree panorama from the restored ramparts of the fortlet; this provides a wonderful illustration of how the natural changes in topography have influenced the development of the historic landscape. The eye is perhaps first drawn to the two reservoirs which are the most dramatic man-made elements in the landscape; the expanse of blue standing out against the muted greens and browns of the moorland. The reservoirs – Castleshaw Lower and Castleshaw Upper – dominate the middle view to the north and west of the monument but these are set against a series of rough grass anticlines, beyond which can just be seen the expanse of Castleshaw Moor. To the north-east, the scatter of farms around Castle Shaw and Bleak Hey Nook, strung along the base of the plateau, illustrate the distribution of upland settlement. Beyond the line of settlement is an area of gently rising in-by land, now covered in rough grass. This extends up to the base of the wild moor, which is marked by lines of grey scree just visible on the horizon and demarcating the transition to the Standedge upland. The eye then follows the line of Waters Clough, a steep rocky water course which scars across the landscape to the south-east. This forms a visual boundary between the more remote hill slopes and the ‘tamer’ rolling patchwork of farmland along the valley edge, leading down to the flat marshy river terraces. To the north of the site, the transition between enclosed pasture and the open moorland is clearly demarcated by the expanse of Cudworth Pasture.



Plate 3: *view looking south-west down the valley, following the course of the Roman road*

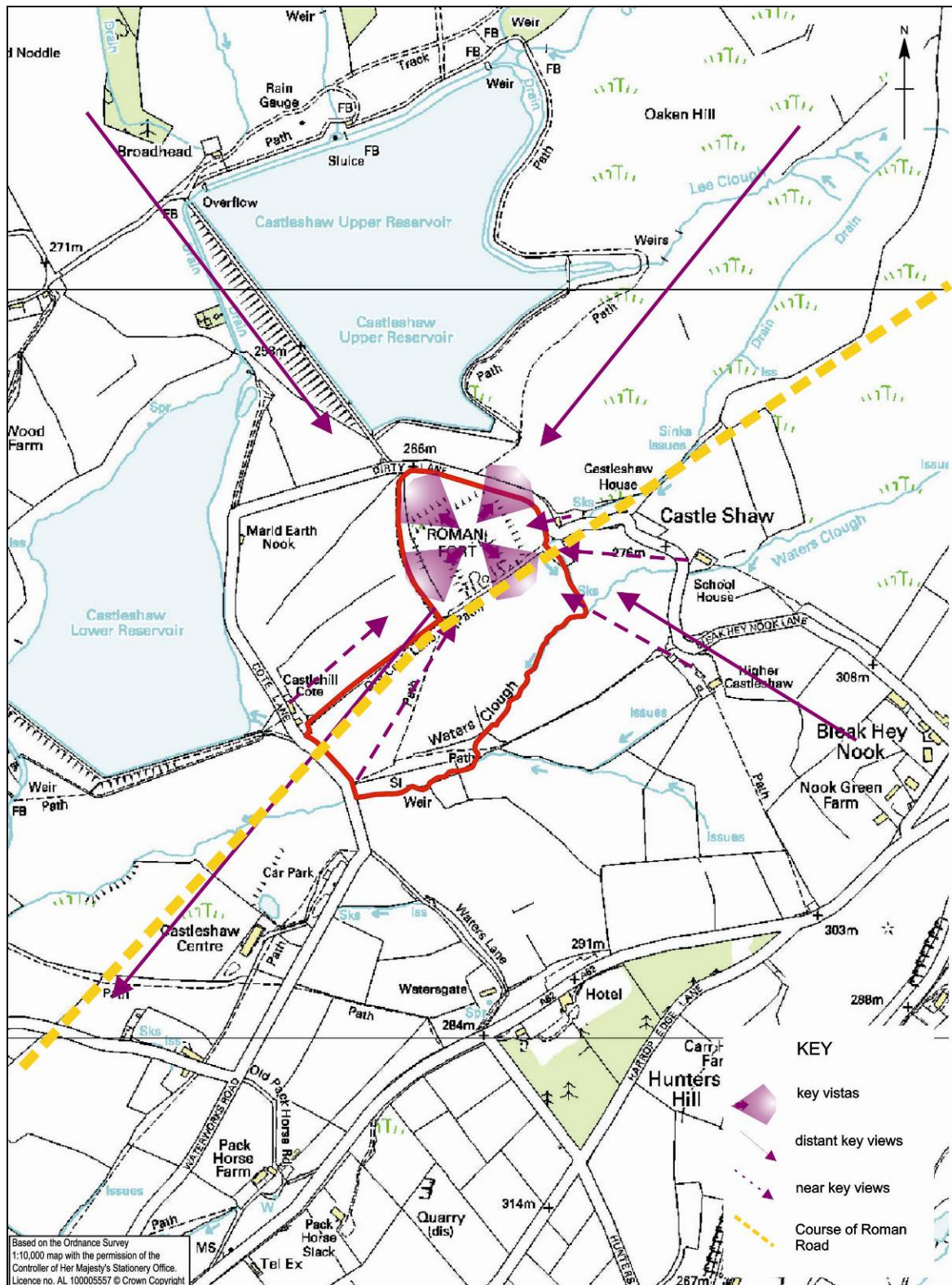


Figure 5: key views both from and to Castleshaw forts

The view south-west along the valley bottom is the longest uninterrupted view from the site, and possibly the most important in terms of interpreting the historic landscape since it marks the course of the Roman road (Plate 3). The valley stands in stark contrast to the enclosed nature of the surrounding hills and, when looking down the valley, it becomes apparent why the Roman

engineers placed the road here. The earthen road bank (*agger*) is clearly visible where it crosses the marshier land along the valley bottom and this view enables an understanding of the relationship between the positioning of the forts and the road. The corresponding view to the north-east is a little more challenging to visualise as it is difficult from the ground to see the course of the road disappearing over the uplands.

Views towards the site are more limited but nevertheless equally important. The site is largely hidden from the valley and it is not obvious from the car park. However, there is a striking near view looking north-east up the hill from Cote Lane, the main point of pedestrian access to the forts. From this point the layout of the fortlet is plainly visible, although the larger fort is less distinct. Other key views towards the site are from the high ground surrounding the monument. There are good long views from the settlement at Bleak Hey Nook and Higher Castle Shaw and from footpath routes across the upland slopes, including the Pennine Bridleway, Pennine Way and Oldham Way and a series of shorter views to the site from the hamlet.

'Castleshaw Camp is small but it is a delightful site, being wonderfully peaceful because of its remoteness. It has fantastic views in every direction around the Castleshaw valley and the site itself has the unique quality of feeling unspoiled. It is a wonderful place for contemplation and has the capacity to fire the imagination...'

Response to consultation from Mrs Catherine May, Reading (formerly lived in Scouthead)

Sense of Place

Overall, the wild expanse of the landscape surrounding the Castleshaw forts creates a strong sense of isolation. The juxtaposition of the tamer valley with the remote upland stretching out beyond, creates a real 'edge of civilisation' feeling and it is not hard to imagine that one is still within the Roman frontier zone. From within the fort, despite the openness of the surrounding landscape, the restored fortlet ramparts create a distinct feeling of enclosure. They provide a familiar 'human' scale and context which contrasts with the inhospitable natural landscape beyond and the immense size of the man-made reservoirs. Away from the river valley there are few trees, apart from a few scattered blocks of plantation, the most imposing of which is on the horizon to the south-east of the site and across the valley slopes to the north-east. There are also few fences apart from the post and rail timber fence enclosing the forts. Gritstone walls are the more traditional boundary forms and these can be seen snaking across the landscape in all directions although now sadly being replaced by barbed wire fencing.

The exposed nature of the monument means that the weather is a major factor influencing views, as well as affecting the forts' unique sense of place. As such, the character of the site can change dramatically depending on the season, which means that each visit can be a new experience. In the summer the greens and sandy yellows of the grassland and moors make the place inviting and

peaceful, often with dramatic cloudscapes racing across the hill slopes. However, in the winter the story is very different, with relentless driving rain, bitter wind and often deep snow. This really serves to bring home how bleak it must have been for a Roman auxiliary posted to this far flung edge of the Empire.

2.3 PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND EXCAVATION

Castleshaw was first discovered in the mid 18th century after lying abandoned and forgotten for well over a thousand years. In 1751, Thomas Percival of Royton (1740–1804), a renowned physician, author, antiquarian and fellow of the Royal Society presented a paper describing his research into the route of the trans-Pennine Roman road from Manchester in which he stated ‘...at Castleshaw I was well pleased to find a double Roman camp’. The paper was illustrated by a sketch of the site layout, the first known plan of the monument (Percival 1751).

A few years later in 1766, the Reverend John Watson produced a slightly more detailed plan of the fort in his paper presented to the Society of Antiquaries (Watson 1766). During his investigations, Watson apparently quizzed the locals, noting that finds of ‘coins, beads, pieces of uncommon pots and bricks’ had been found in the proximity of the site including ‘an inscription on a stone, which, not being understood, was unfortunately broke and used’ (Booth 2001, 66 citing Watson). However, Watson noted that his investigations produced nothing except a small glass bead – a melon bead (now lost). Such as it was, this is the first recorded excavation and find associated with the site.

Castleshaw was mentioned again in 1771 by Reverend John Whitaker in his *History of Manchester* where he refers to the site as; ‘a probably fortress of the Sistonii, but to have extended along the area which rises eminent over the rest of the ground, and which is all equally denominated The Husteads and all defined by the Castleshills’. He goes on to describe the smaller fortlet: ‘The later fortress seems to have been contracted into a much narrower compass, and to have been enclosed within the fosse, that still plainly appears encircling a rounded eminence near the centre’ (Whitaker 1771, 107). Just what this ‘round eminence’ may have been is unknown, but it was probably the buried structural remains of the fortlet, now long since levelled by subsequent excavation.

Despite this early interest in the site, no further investigation was undertaken at Castleshaw for almost a century. In the late 1890s, the local poet and historian Ammon Wrigley ‘rediscovered’ the forts and set about a series of excavations recorded in his book *Songs of a Moorland Parish* published in 1912 – in places a rather florid but, nevertheless, evocative description of his endeavours.

In the following year, G.F. Buckley, a local mill owner from Delph, leased the site for a year and,

acting on instruction from the antiquarian W.H. St. John Hope, began excavating the fortlet area. Buckley dug a series of diagonal trenches, which produced considerable amounts of high quality pottery including samian ware, black ware and white ware (Wrigley 1912). The results were published in a short report in *The Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society* (Andrew 1898). Wrigley then returned and continued intermittent excavation at the site until 1907, finding further examples of pottery and tile, some with partial tile stamps, and two coins (Booth 2001, 29-30).

'....on the 9th of October 1897, we entered the Husteds enclosure with the avowed intention of clearing the camp away in about an hour, but we were like men who run hard and do not get over much ground. We appeared to do a tremendous amount of work, but moved very little soil'

Ammon Wrigley *Songs of a Moorland Parish* 1912, 300

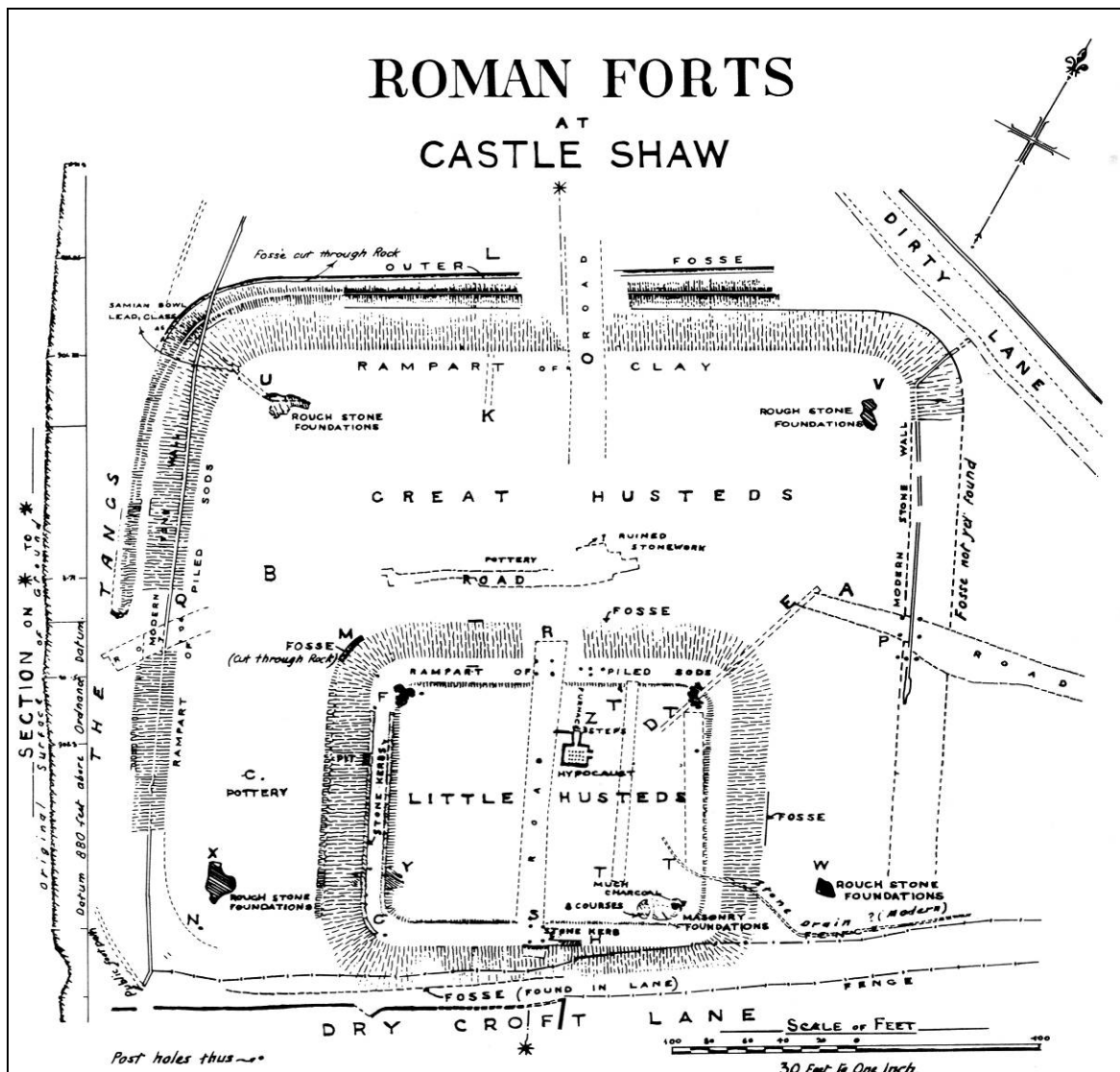


Figure 6: Bruton's plan of the Roman forts (1908)

In 1907 the site was bought by Samuel Andrews of Leeds, a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, and Major William Lees of Heywood of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. They invited F.A. Bruton, a Classics master at Manchester Grammar School, to direct further excavation targeting the defences of the fort and the layout of the fortlet. The results were published in an interim report in 1908, followed by a second report in 1911 (Bruton 1908; 1911). The work included the first detailed survey of the site, as well as lists of recorded finds and a series of photographs - the first photographic images of the site.

After the First World War, the famous Roman archaeologist, Ian Richmond, undertook a study of the pottery from Castleshaw, establishing a chronology for the fort and later fortlet which has largely stood the test of time. The results of his work were published in a paper 'The sequence and purpose of the Roman forts at Castleshaw' published in *The Transactions of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society* in 1929. However, no further excavation took place until 1957 when Manchester University, under the leadership of C.E.P. Rosser, began a series of training excavations concentrated within the previously unexcavated fort area. In 1960, F.H. Thompson took over the work, continuing through until 1964. Excavation results were published in a series of three reports; two interim reports (Rosser 1958; Thompson 1965) and a final report (Thompson 1974) in *The Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*.

Following the Bruton and Manchester University excavations, the site was in quite a poor condition, with mounds of spoil obscuring much of the area of the fortlet and fort. In 1984, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) - with support from the Manpower Services Commission, North West Water (now United Utilities), the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and English Heritage - began work to restore the fortlet site and make it more accessible to the general public by improving interpretation. In advance of this work, a phase of topographic and geophysical survey was undertaken, which included plotting all the old trenches across both the fort and fortlet. Given the costs of funding excavation, it was then decided that the most appropriate approach would be to concentrate on just the area of the fortlet as such sites are relatively rare and a display fortlet would be of considerable educational value.

As a Scheduled Monument, any new excavation had to be kept to a minimum and the majority of works were confined to re-opening, cleaning and recording the old trenches. However, some new work was permitted in order to secure a good stratigraphic sequence to show how the site developed over time. The results were published in a GMAU monograph *Castleshaw: The Archaeology of a Roman Fortlet* (Walker 1989) which includes a substantial contribution by Norman Redhead, the current Greater Manchester County Archaeologist, who has been directly involved with research on the site since the 1980s, directing the subsequent Daycroft Field excavations.

Despite the limitations of the project, significant results were achieved which considerably advanced

an understanding of both the form and function of the 2nd century fortlet. The subsequent landscaping and consolidation work following the excavation also considerably improved the interpretative and educational value of the site, making it one of only a handful of fortlets on display to the public in this way.

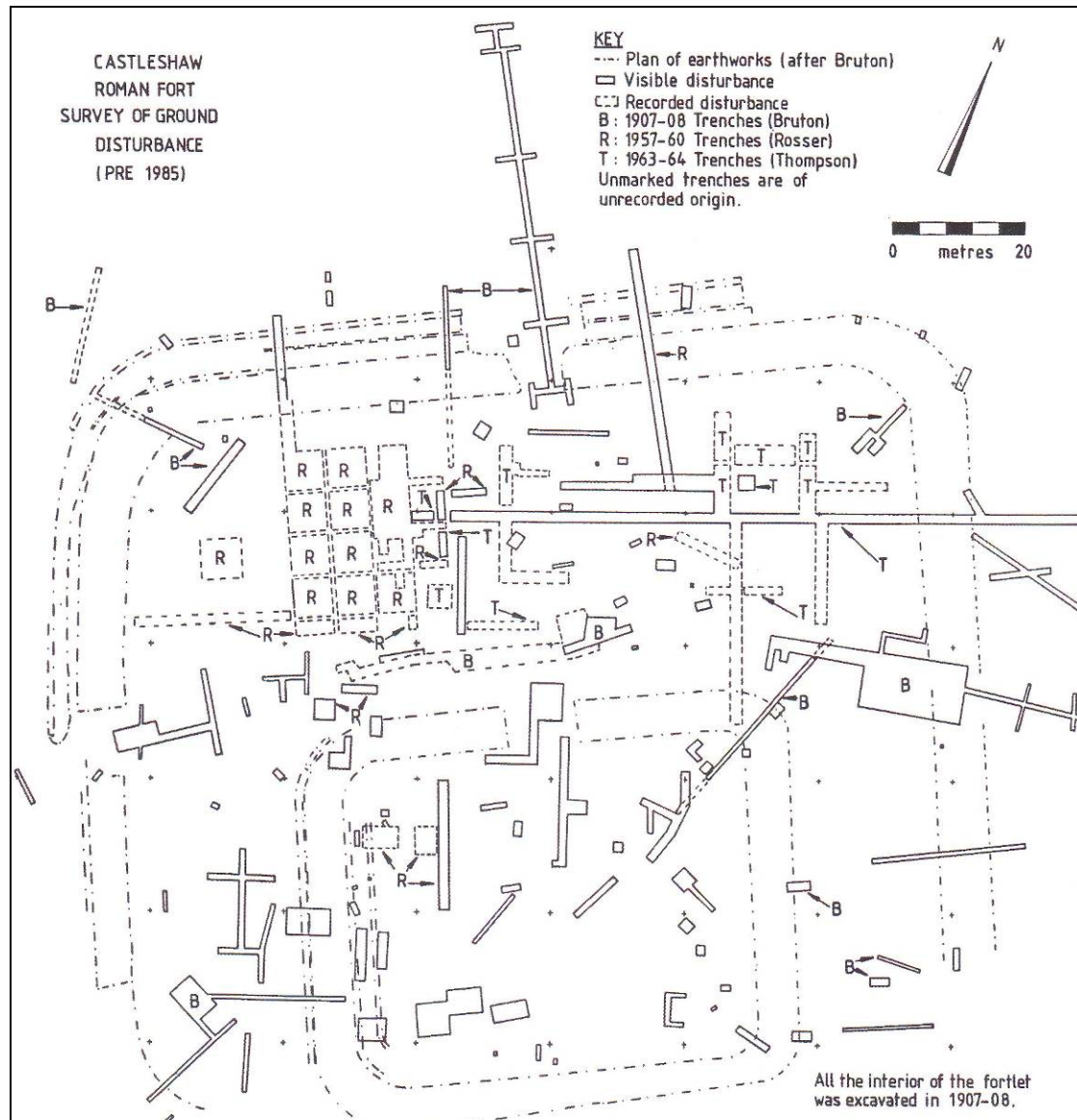
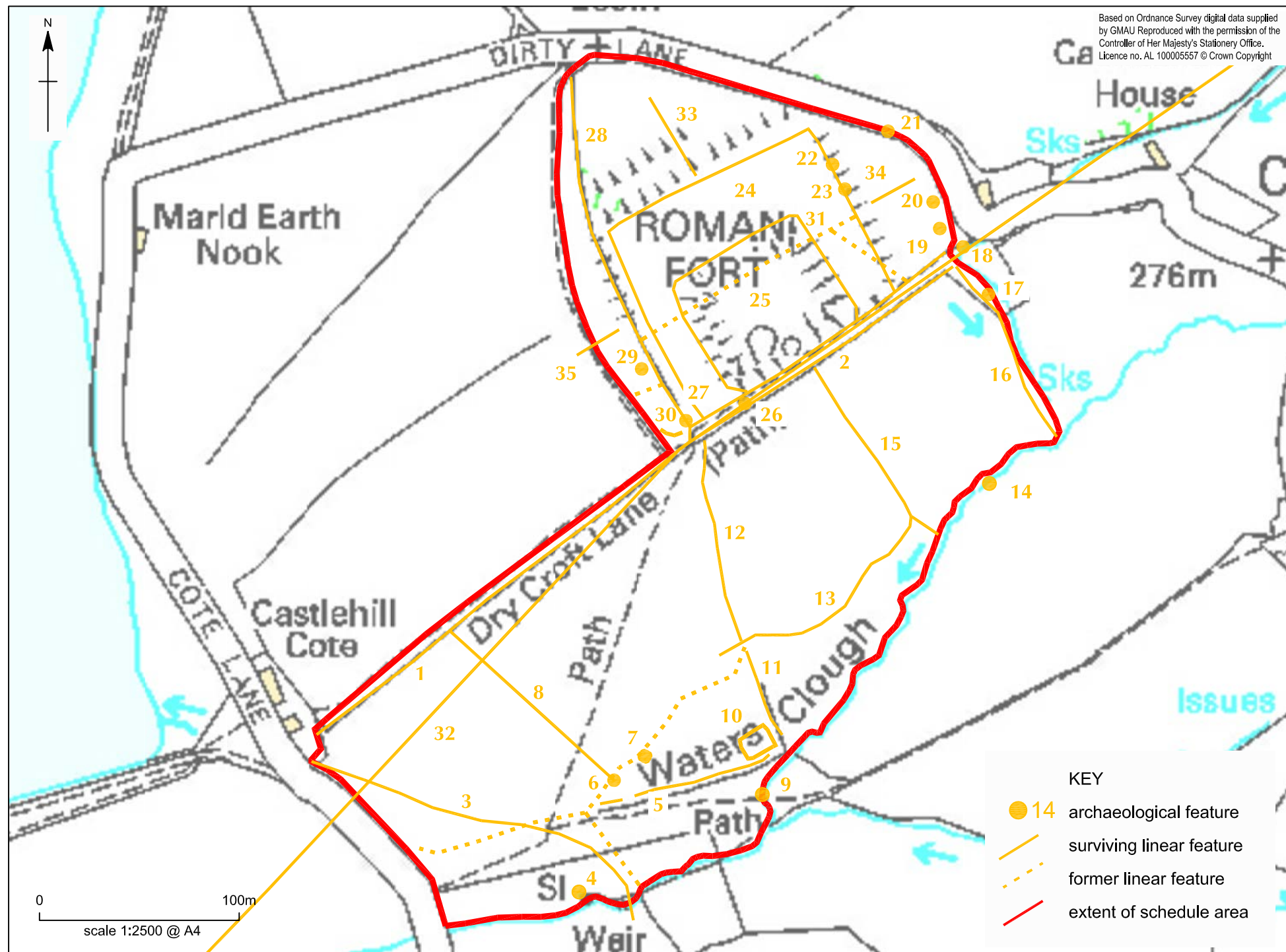


Figure 7: GMAU survey of pre-1985 excavations and investigations.

In 1994, the GMAU returned to the site under the direction of Norman Redhead and, with funding from North West Water, undertook a programme of test pitting and trial trenching in Daycroft Field to the south and south-west of the fort, with the intention of determining the presence, nature, extent and potential date of any extra-mural activity associated with a civilian settlement (*vicus*). Significant evidence for such a settlement was found and published in two reports (Redhead 1996 & 1997).

A full investigation history is included in Appendix 3



Castleshaw Roman Forts, Saddlewoth: location of archaeological features

2.4 UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF CASTLESHAW

There are several excellent books and articles covering the archaeology of the Castleshaw Roman forts and the historic development of the area, including Ken Booth's *Roman Saddleworth* (2001) and Walker (ed) (1989) *Castleshaw: The Archaeology of a Roman Fortlet*. It is not intended to re-iterate this work in the following section but, instead, to provide a broad overview of the development of the site in order to place the monument within its wider historic context to inform an overall assessment of significance.

Those archaeological sites identified across the project area are detailed in the accompanying site inventory (Appendix 4) and illustrated on Figure 8. Each site is referred to by a unique identification number which is placed in brackets e.g. gateposts (21). However, it should be noted that this is a project specific ID number and not a Historic Environment Record (HER) number. HER numbers, where they exist, are referenced in the site inventory or annotated accordingly e.g. Waters Mill (HER 10272.1.0).

Unfortunately, the acid soils of the area tend to have a profound impact on the preservation of sub-surface remains, particularly animal bone and other organic materials which do not survive well unless cooked or charred by fire in antiquity or sealed in fairly anaerobic conditions. This does have an effect on the type of material that survives and, even where artefacts have been preserved, they can quickly disintegrate when exposed to the air. Even fairly robust material like pottery has to be treated chemically following excavation to stabilise it and prevent it from crumbling, a procedure which would not have been used during the earlier excavation. This has direct implication in terms of both interpreting the existing archaeological evidence and assessing future potential.

Mesolithic Castleshaw: potential hunting camp, onset of deforestation and the trans-Pennine trade route

The first evidence of human activity at Castleshaw dates to the Mesolithic period between 7600 – 3500 BC. In stark contrast to other regions where evidence is rare, a considerable number of Mesolithic sites have been identified across the central Pennines. Over 111 sites have been recorded across the area, possibly the highest density of material known in the British Isles (Stonehouse 2001, 22). There are 40 known sites from within the immediate vicinity of Castleshaw, most located on the uplands to the north of the site where remains have been found preserved under a blanket of peat, now eroding (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996). A cluster of sites has been identified in Readycon Dean valley (SD 9890 1270), 3km north-west of Castleshaw and at Badger Slacks (SD 9982 1211), 2.5km north-west, as well as at March Hill (SE 1142 1304) and the adjacent plateau of Lominot, both 4km north-east, near Marsden (*ibid*).

Many Mesolithic sites comprise little more than a single flint (eg. HER 1208 1 0) while others, like

Green Brow, 3km north of Castleshaw (HER 1203 13), feature a range of worked material and debitage (the waste from flint tool production), suggesting probably flint knapping sites. Where excavation has taken place, such as at Dean Clough I, part of the Readycon Dean valley site cluster, an even larger number of flints have been recorded, occasionally in excess of a thousand, as well as features which would seem to indicate some form of temporary settlement including hearths and rudimentary shelters (Stonehouse 2001, 23; Arrowsmith *et al* 1996; Hodgson & Brennand 2006, 28). During this period, semi-nomadic hunter-gather groups exploited a wide variety of food resources including wild animals, fish and fruits. The mobility of these groups was largely dependent on the availability of these resources and was strongly influenced by environmental conditions and seasonal shifts (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996).

Flint is not naturally found in the Saddleworth area, which means that it was either imported in nodule form and worked at knapping sites or was traded as finished implements (Booth 2001, 6). A concentration of sites recorded to the north-east of Castleshaw, between Diggle and Marsden, where the Pennines are at their narrowest, suggests that even during this very early period, the valley was an important crossing point and trading route: a pattern repeated time and time again throughout the valley's history

Within the Castleshaw valley, all of those sites identified are composed of lithic assemblages associated with hunting implements rather than domestic activities and are largely associated with the Later Mesolithic (c.6500-3500 BC) period. The majority of assemblages comprise scalene triangles, blunted bladelets, flakes and blades rather than scrapers and burins (a tool for working antler and bone) (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996). In the immediate vicinity of the forts, Ammon Wrigley mentions 'a few flakes and one implement' found during his excavations (Wrigley 1912, 26) and during the GMAU excavations (Walker 1989) 48 pieces of flint were recovered, 28 of which are believed to be Mesolithic in date. Such a concentration of material suggests the site was a focus of activity and potentially a seasonal hunting camp. Stonehouse, during his extensive research into the prehistory of the area, noted the propensity for Mesolithic sites to be located, like Castleshaw, on west facing slopes with widespread views out across the landscape. He suggested that these were temporary camps, serving as lookout posts for tracking the movement of wild cattle and deer up to summer grazing grounds on the uplands (Stonehouse 2001, 25).

During this period, the valley landscape would have looked very different from that of today. At the beginning of the Mesolithic period, palaeo-environmental evidence has shown that much of the lower valleys were covered by an alder-willow swamp, above which were oak-hazel forest and oak, with pine and birch woodland scattered across the moorland plateau (Booth 2001). However, Mesolithic man set about a process of change in the landscape which continues through to the present-day.

No region of the British Isles is truly wild; all are a product of thousands of years of land management beginning in the Mesolithic with the first phase of widespread deforestation. Prior to 5400 BC, forest growth had reached a peak, brought about by a gradual climatic change from a hot, dry, environment to much warmer and wetter conditions (Hodgson & Brennand 2006, 23). After this date, there appears to have been a gradual reduction in tree cover, partially attributed to Mesolithic hunters clearing areas of upland forest by burning, and large bands of charcoal dating to this period have been identified in upland peat deposits (*ibid*). One explanation for this is that Mesolithic hunters sought to encourage regeneration and the growth of grassland in order to bring the herds out into open areas where they could be hunted more easily (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996).

Neolithic and Bronze Age: farming brings about further changes in the landscape

Farming was being practiced in Britain by around 3500 BC, the start of the Neolithic period (3500 - 1700 BC), although in reality the transition from Mesolithic hunter-gather to Neolithic farmer was a gradual process which varied from region to region. Gradually, there is a marked change in archaeological evidence and the appearance of new site-types and artefact technologies including pottery, distinctive lithic forms, stone axes for forest clearance, adze for ploughing and sickles and querns for processing cereal crops. Pollen analysis also indicates a marked increase in the rate of deforestation as land was cleared for cultivation, and the appearance of cereal pollen suggesting crop production. A series of core samples taken at Dean Clough (SD 9870 1260), 3km north-west of Castleshaw, and at Castleshaw Moor (SD 0045 1150), 1.8km north, as part of a programme of palaeo-environmental investigation by the University of Manchester, show that during the Early Neolithic (3500 - 2500 BC), vegetation in the area was mostly scrub woodland, dominated by hazel. There then followed successive phases of woodland clearance, spanning the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (2900 – 1300) (Arrowsmith 2010, 4, citing Brayshay 1999).

The samples also showed that the peat upland, a characteristic element of the wider Castleshaw landscape, had already begun to form by the Early Neolithic. This can be attributed to a deterioration of the climate, which saw an increase in rainfall and lowering of the temperature across the country. The worsening conditions, accentuated by tree clearance, brought about changes in the forest floor, particularly at higher levels, and eventually the accumulation of a blanket peat layer.

Across the country, archaeological evidence of the Neolithic period is marked by the appearance of *in-situ* settlement sites - usually indicated by the presence of post-built structures, pits, hearths and artefact assemblages, in particular lithics and pottery - as well as the introduction of ceremonial and funerary monuments such as standing stones, timber and stone circles, avenues, henges, burial cists and cairns, many of which continue into the Bronze Age. During the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age (2900 – 700 BC), as woodland clearance continued to increase, agricultural settlement expanded, particularly in upland areas. By the Early Bronze Age (1700 – 1300 BC) settlement appears to have

extended into previously marginal areas and field systems can be seen dotted across the gritstone uplands (Stonehouse 2001, 57). Conversely, during the Late Bronze Age period (1300 - 700 BC) deterioration in climate, possibly combined with soil exhaustion, saw settlement from the upland areas largely disappear and the gradual expansion of blanket peat down to lower levels.

Neolithic sites are much less frequent in this part of the Pennines than Mesolithic sites (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996). Where evidence has been found, this comprises small groups of lithics with no evidence of pottery, settlement or larger monuments (*ibid*; Stonehouse 2001, 40). This could be a product of fieldwork and problems with site identification related to the possibility that the Neolithic communities maintained a significant degree of seasonal or transitory movement for much longer in the more marginal uplands.

The largest site identified within the vicinity of Castleshaw comes from the Piethorne valley (SD 9745 1370) where 434 pieces of flint dating to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were found adjacent to a Mesolithic hunting camp (HER 5035/I/O). The Neolithic material comprised mainly tools and scrapers, suggesting this may have been a skin or leather working area, potentially of transient herdsman.

At Castleshaw 20 Neolithic and Bronze Age flints (HER 1191.1.8) were identified alongside a Mesolithic lithic assemblage recovered during the GMAU excavations within the fortlet. These included two flint arrowheads - one a leaf-shaped arrowhead of Neolithic date and the other a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (Stonehouse 2001, 25, 60, 78-9) - as well as various microliths. This combination of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age elements within lithic assemblages suggests a strong degree of continuity of technology, occupation or exploitation during these periods (Brennand 2006, 36). Given the absence of settlement evidence, and of pollen indicating cereal production, it is possible that life in the Neolithic was not substantially different to that in the preceding period in this part of the country.

Close to Castleshaw, Ammon Wrigley recorded the discovery of a polished greenstone axe during the construction of the upper reservoir in 1899 (HER 5918.1.0). This is one of a number of axes found across the central Pennines and transported into the area from elsewhere, in this case probably from the Langdale axe quarries in Cumbria, and might be further evidence of prehistoric trade routes operating close to the site.

Traditionally, the Bronze Age (1700 -700BC) has been divided into three periods: Early, Middle and Late. The material culture of the

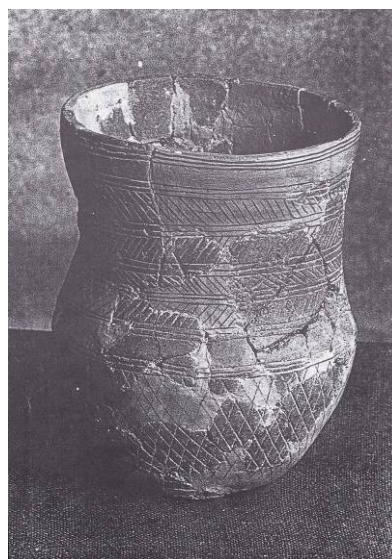


Plate 4: Urn No.1 (Stonehouse 2001, 61) © Manchester Museum

Early Bronze Age (1700 – 1300BC) is often linked with that of the Neolithic but one characteristic element is the production of Beaker pottery which first appeared in Britain during the first quarter of the second millennium BC (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996). Most of the Pennine examples come from the Peak District but a collection of 5 vessels were excavated at Castleshaw and are of particular significance, not least because they were recovered from a domestic, rather than funerary context.

The Castleshaw ‘beaker’ vessels (HER 1191.1.8) were uncovered during the University of Manchester excavations of the fort in 1964. A total of 122 sherds were discovered in a pit beneath the floor of the 1st century fort, cut into the underlying rock to a depth of 38cm (Thompson 1974, 13) and is thought to possibly indicate the presence of Early Bronze Age upland settlement in the area (Brennand 2006, 36). Five vessels were reconstructed from the sherds, including a giant storage beaker with rusticated decoration, all of which now form part of the collection at Manchester Museum.

In addition to the beaker vessels, a Bronze Age arrow head was found at the site (HER 1191.1.8) and Whitaker refers to a Late Bronze Age socketed bronze axe being found near the Roman fort in the 18th century (HER 5932.1.0; Booth 2001; 79). A considerable amount of Early Bronze Age material has also been found within the broader area including fragments of beaker pottery at Piethorne Brook (SD 9745 1370) (4.7km north-west of Castleshaw) where four beaker and two collared vessels were found, and at Jackson’s Barrow (SE 0020 0905) 3.5km east (Stonehouse 2001, 62).

Barrow sites are characteristic of the period and a number are known from the vicinity of the forts including two at Broadhead Noddle (SD 399170, 410370), 1 km north-west of Castleshaw recorded by Ammon Wrigley but no longer visible. Wrigley also noted a ring-work or barrow at Hill Top (SD 9801 0745), 2.8km south-west, near Delph. Further afield, there are sites at Ringstone Edge Moor (SE 0445 1825), Beacon Hill (SE 0450 1850) and Lowhouse (SD 9506 1837) (Stonehouse 2001).

All of the evidence seems to point towards considerable activity in the area during the Bronze Age period and that there may, potentially, have been a settlement site somewhere in the locality, close to Castleshaw forts. Thompson described the beaker assemblage excavated at Castleshaw as being found in a domestic context - the fill of the pit being described as clean brown soil with some charcoal flecking. If this is the case, then further evidence of settlement activity may be preserved *in-situ*. Given the recovery of earlier lithic artefacts from the site, it also raises the question as to whether there may have been a degree of continuity of occupation or exploitation of the area from the Mesolithic into the Bronze Age.

The Iron Age – life before the Romans arrived

One of the main problems with regards Iron Age archaeology in the North West is the apparent scarcity of evidence and an alleged poverty of material culture throughout the period (Hodgson and

Brennand 2006, 51). In many areas of the country the Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) is marked by an increase in the number of settlement sites visible in the archaeological record and a corresponding decrease in the number of ceremonial and funerary sites. However, across the central Pennines evidence of any activity has seemed scarce until recently. Over the past few years, palaeo-environmental sampling programmes, together with wider landscape studies and an increase in archaeological excavation associated with linear development schemes, has seen light cast on what had previously, rather unfairly, been termed the archaeological ‘black hole’ of the Iron Age period in the North West (*ibid* citing Haselgrove).

During the early part of this period, the cold, wet climate which had prevailed in the Late Bronze Age continued and the lack of identifiable Early Iron Age sites is matched by a lack of evidence for anthropogenic disturbance within the pollen record (*op cit*, 51). In the Late Iron Age, however, the climate improved and palaeo-environmental evidence indicates the widespread clearance of woodland after 400 BC and a corresponding increase in cereal cultivation across the North West (Arrowsmith *et al* 2006; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 52). Pollen samples taken from buried soil beneath the Roman road at High Moor to the west of Castleshaw were radio-carbon dated to 100 BC - AD 40 (GMAU 1995) and showed that during this period the area was partially wooded with some open heath and grassland. In the upper levels of the core, tree and shrub pollen declined and was replaced by heather, pointing towards an increase in land clearance in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period (Brayshay 1999).

Despite these palaeo-environmental indicators, at present very few corresponding settlement sites are known from west of the Pennines and there remains a general paucity of archaeological material culture compared to that in the east (Booth 2001, 8; Stonehouse 2001, 82) although aerial photographic analysis, coupled with targeted excavation, is beginning to fill in the gaps in native settlement distribution on this side of the Pennines. Several settlement sites have been identified in the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods including sites at Great Wooldem Hall near Irlam; Irby in the Wirral; Werneth Low near Mottram, and Castlesteads at Bury. A number of potential sites have also been identified and are awaiting further investigation (Arrowsmith *et al* 2006). Where settlement evidence has been found it appears that the majority of sites were single banked or ditched enclosures with a single entrance. Within these enclosures were one or sometimes two round houses. Several promontory sites and hill-top enclosures have also been identified across the more upland areas. Where dating evidence like pottery has been found there appears to be a considerable degree of continuity between the Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlements. This is a common pattern repeated across the north of England.

The project area lies within the territory of the Brigantes and traditionally Castleshaw has been associated with the Brigante ‘polis’ of Rigodunum listed by Ptolemy; these were native administrative centres at the heart of tribal groups. Unfortunately there is no evidence to support this, and the only

possible evidence for Iron Age/Romano British activity at Castleshaw to date being a stone spindle whorl which was found '3 ft below the Roman floor' by Wrigley during his excavations of the fort in 1907 (HER 5931.1.0) and a second found near the site by T Thompson of Delph (HER 5931). Nevertheless, it does seem likely that there was some form of small scale prehistoric settlement or occupation in the area potentially stretching back to the Neolithic or Late Mesolithic. This continuity of use is very interesting and raises questions about whether the location of the fort at this point had any other significance beyond the purely strategic.

Gaps in Our Understanding of Prehistoric Castleshaw

The transition between periods: there is some evidence of a continuation of use at Castleshaw, potentially from the Mesolithic onwards. However little is known about how the use and function of the site changed through the prehistoric period and whether there was any legacy or continuity between phases. There may even have been symbolic as well as strategic reasons for placing the fort in this location, perhaps some continuity of association or occupation. Such discussion points may not have an answer but comparative studies across the country could yield interesting results. A re-assessment of existing dating evidence (including artefact assemblages) might also advance our understanding of the transition and continuity between periods. Similarly, a re-assessment of the Castleshaw and Piethorne aerial survey material (Arrowsmith et al 2006) together with new LiDAR data could produce interesting and important results, particularly with regards identifying later Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. Looking at the nature of transition across all periods is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRF) (Brennand 2006, 175)

Problems with dating: apart from material from the more recent GMAU excavation, much of the dating evidence from the site is based of comparative artefact analysis. The application of more 'absolute' scientific dating techniques could considerably illuminate the early (and later) development of the site. A re-assessment of the lithic assemblages would also be recommended. This is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRF) (Brennand 2006, 181).

The nature and form of settlement: the nature and form of prehistoric activity at Castleshaw is unknown although the focus of finds, especially when compared with surrounding areas, would indicate that the site was in use potentially from the Mesolithic period onwards. However, such conclusions have to be seen against the extent of excavation at the fortlet when compared to other sites in the area, and the possible bias this creates in archaeological record.

Understanding the prehistoric landscape: more information is needed to place prehistoric Castleshaw within its wider landscape context, in particular any evidence of associated field systems as well as the pattern of settlement, ritual sites and prehistoric trade routes. Both the Saddleworth Historical Society and Archaeological Society, as well as other academic institutions (Arrowsmith et al 1996), have undertaken an excellent programme of survey over the years but this work might be consolidated and augmented by the implementation of modern remote sensing technologies

including LiDAR and possibly further geophysical investigation. The acid soils of the site limit the success of both magnetometry and resistivity surveys, exacerbated by the considerable depths of the Roman deposits, but ground-penetrating radar (GPR) might be an option worth exploring. All of this work would need to be considered in the light of wider research aims, projects and strategies in place across the central Pennines.

Understanding the palaeo-environment: palaeo-environment evidence from the site is limited to the samples taken during the GMAU excavations which revealed a considerable amount of information on the nature of the 2nd century environment of the fortlet, expanding our understanding of the local economy, and the subsequent abandonment of the outpost. A more comprehensive programme might be considered including material sealed from below the Roman deposits, as well as a more comprehensive sampling strategy across the site and its hinterland. A programme of sampling beneath the Roman road at High Moor produced very important results in terms of understanding the pre-Roman landscape (GMAU 1995). However, poor pollen preservation might be a significant factor in determining a successful programme of sampling and would need careful consideration. This is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRF) (Brennand 2006, 183).

Roman Castleshaw – Conquest and Occupation⁴

Although the Claudian landing at Richborough in AD 43 is taken to mark the beginning of the Roman period (AD 43 – 410) the ‘Romanisation’ of Britain was a complex and prolonged process of conquest, occupation and cultural assimilation which varied in speed and extent across the country. Some native tribes rapidly adopted Roman rule, quickly recognising the political and economical potential of such a union, while others resisted integration, retaining throughout the period an Iron Age culture, to all intents and purposes, with a Roman veneer.

Prior to the invasion, northern England had been inhabited by the Brigantes, a confederation of tribes such as the Setanti, Gabrantovices and Textoverdi, led by Queen Cartimandua. She formed an alliance with Rome soon after the landings, with Brigantia, acting as a client kingdom and a buffer state between the largely Romanised south and the still hostile territories to the north. However in AD 69, following the queen’s marriage to her Roman standard bearer, Vellacatus, this fragile arrangement was thrown into jeopardy. Her former consort, Venutius, seized power and turned against the Imperial army, threatening Rome’s expansion north. In retaliation, Petillius Cerialis, the recently appointed Roman governor, launched a campaign to quash the rebellious Brigantes and bring them finally under Roman subjugation. In AD 71 the IX legion advanced up to York, establishing the new fortress of Eboracum. Meanwhile the II legion moved west from their headquarters in Lincoln to construct a fortress at Chester (Deva), trapping Brigantia in a pincer movement and successfully quashing the uprising and extending the Roman frontier all the way up

⁴ Title borrowed directly from Ken Booth’s Roman Saddleworth (Booth 2001, 10)

to the Tyne/Solway line (Booth 2001; Walker 1989).

‘.. Petillius Cerialis at once struck terror into their hearts by invading the commonwealth of the Brigantes, which is said to be the most numerous tribe of the whole province: many battles were fought, sometimes bloody battles, and by permanent conquest or by forays he annexed a large portion of the Brigantes.’

Tacitus, Agricola (xvii. 1) (on the conquest of the quashing of the revolt)

The speed with which the uprising was put down suggests that a network of roads and forts may have already been in place before Agricola’s famous northern campaign of AD 78. It has been argued that both Ribchester and Manchester, and possibly Castleshaw, were founded prior to the Agricola campaign, potentially by Julius Frontinus, governor of Britain in AD 74 (Booth 2001, 12). However, establishing a foundation date for these early forts is problematic. A chronological framework is provided by *Agricola*, a book detailing the military campaigns written by the governor’s son-in-law, the historian, Tacitus. Unfortunately, the archaeological evidence can rarely be dated precisely enough to be able to distinguish between the work of Cerialis, Frontinus and Agricola (Philpott 2006, 63). It is, however, feasible that a series of camps or forts were established either before the Agricola campaigns by the II legion on their advance towards Chester, or as a supply network for the XX legion as they continued work on the construction of the fortress. As such, the first phase of construction at Castleshaw may date to sometime between AD 70 and the Agricola campaigns of AD 79 (Walker 1989, 14).

By AD 79 Agricola was leading another campaign to extend Imperial power even further north and into Scotland. In order to consolidate his tenuous control of Brigantia and quash any threat of an attack from the rear, he set about constructing a series of garrisoned posts connected together by a network of roads. Such an infrastructure was essential to the quick deployment of troops and supplies along the line and to ensuring official orders could be communicated with speed. One of the most important routes to secure was the trans-Pennine passage, which would connect together the fortresses at York (Eboracum) and Chester (Deva). All along the course of this road were positioned forts, each situated within a day’s march of each other. Five of these forts are known today: heading away from Chester these are Northwich, Manchester, Castleshaw, Slack and Newton Kyme. The road is frequently referred to as the Margary 712 after Ivan Margary who compiled the first inventory of the country’s Roman roads in the 1950s.

The Manchester to Tadcaster Road (Margary 712)

The Margary 712 runs from Manchester to Newton Kyme, near Tadcaster, via Oldham and Leeds. Thomas Percival, writing in the late 18th century called it one of the best preserved roads in the north of England, *‘rising with majestic grandeur’* (Percival 1751-52). A considerable amount of

research has been undertaken into the construction, route and archaeology of the road by the aptly named 'The 712 Group'. This group comprises a collection of students from the Saddleworth WEA, Bradford Grammar School and Saddleworth Archaeological Society, who, during the 1970s, undertook a programme of desk-based analysis, field survey and excavation culminating in the booklet 'Saddleworth Seven One Two' (Haigh 1982).

The course of the road was intended to be as direct as possible, although the terrain across the Pennine uplands made this particularly difficult and, as a result, the section between Manchester and Castleshaw had to be split into two alignments. The first ran from Manchester to High Moor, a distance of 20km across relatively easy terrain, and the second from High Moor to Castleshaw which had to cross the River Tame, Thurston Clough and climb steep gradients over Knott Hill and High Moor. Research by the 712 group indicates that the two forts – Manchester and Castleshaw- were almost certainly used as sighting points for setting out the road alignment, another factor supporting the idea that the forts were already in existence in some form before AD 79.

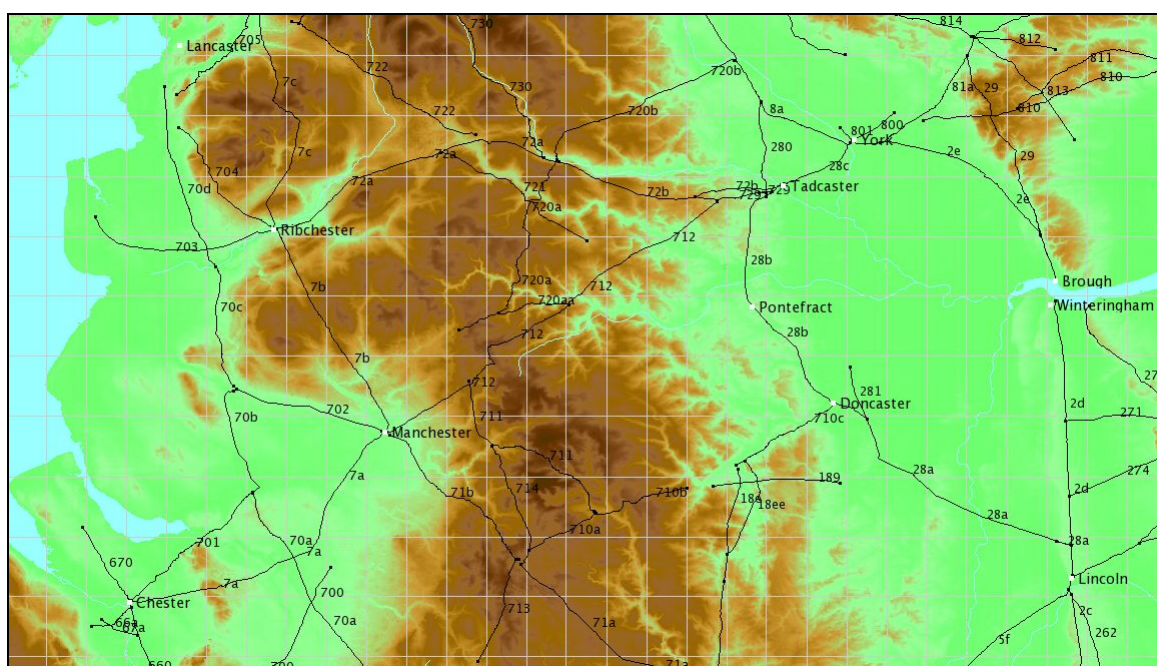


Figure 9: extract from map showing Roman road network drawn by Keith Briggs (Briggs 2009) based on Margary illustrations (© Briggs 2009)

The full course of the road is detailed in Ken Booth's book 'Roman Saddleworth' but the section immediately associated with the fort runs north-east from Delph towards Hull Mill and from there through the fields adjacent to Hull Brook before ascending the hill and passing along the southern side of the fort. Part of the road embankment (agger) can still be seen clearly from the site, running across the fields to the west of the Castleshaw Centre. This survives up to 1m high in places and measures 12m to 15m across (Booth 1986, 4).

At the southern corner of the fort the road changes alignment slightly and follows Drycroft Lane, passing beneath Castleshaw House and climbing up to Standedge where it survives to up to 2m high and measures 7m to 11m across. The line of the wall then turns east in front of Brown Rough Farm and follows the course of the later field wall up to Millstone Edge, where it again turns north towards the fort at Slack (*ibid*).



Figure 10: modern aerial photograph overlain with path of the Margary 712 which it runs adjacent to the fort.

The 1st Century Flavian Auxiliary Fort

Although limited largely to the area within the later fortlet, the excavations carried out by the GMAU in the 1980s refined the chronology of the Flavian fort (24) originally proposed by Richmond (Richmond 1929), identifying at least two main building phases (Walker 1989). The headquarters building (*principia*), store block and part of the barracks (*centuriae*), had all been altered during the lifetime of the fort. The first of these phases may have been associated with a temporary structure built as part of Cerialis's campaigns and the second an Agricolaan fort constructed as part of the trans-Pennine road. However, no absolute dating evidence has as yet been found to support this. It is also important to remember that despite Castleshaw's long history of excavation, only 35% of the overall fort has been examined, and much of this was undertaken some considerable time ago; as such, a considerable amount of information may yet remain to be discovered.

The fort layout followed a typical auxiliary fort design built to garrison a cohort of 500 men. These would have been predominantly foot soldiers although supported by a small mounted detachment, possibly of around 80 men (a *centuria*). Inside the ramparts the fort measures 110m by 91m, covering an area of c.1 hectare. Tile stamps, most likely belonging to the cohorts IV Breucorum, have

been recovered from the site (Thompson 1974, 12), although unfortunately these do not necessarily indicate that this was the garrison stationed at Castleshaw, given that units with tileries tended to supply more than one site within their vicinity, as in this case at Grimescar (Holder 1982, 114).

‘...at Castleshaw I was well pleased to find a double Roman Camp’

Thomas Percival *Philosophical Transactions* 1751-52

Roman fort design was determined by the size and nature of the unit in garrison, Castleshaw was the smallest type of fort built to accommodate a cohort of infantry - a *cohors peditata quingenaria*. The largest was an *ala milliaria* built for c.760-strong cavalry unit (*milliary*), with extensive stabling for horses and multiple garrison blocks. In between, were composite infantry and cavalry units, known as *cohortes equitatae* and these could vary quite considerably in size. The layout of the various types of fort was based on a set of uniform principles described in the military manuals written by Vegetius, Hyginus and Polybius. There are examples surviving of some variation to this basic layout, but the archaeological evidence from Castleshaw seems to indicate that it followed Hyginus’s descriptions relatively closely.

Describing the purpose of such garrison posts the Roman writer Vegetius wrote⁵:

Amongst the things for which it is thought a commander must make provision, whether based in castris or in a city, are that pasturage for the animals, the transport of grain and other things – watering, gathering of wood, and foraging – are rendered safe from attack by the enemy. Because otherwise, if garrisons (praesidia) are not distributed at appropriate points, whether these should be cities or walled forts, our supply convoys cannot pass to and fro. If suitable places have not been fortified previously, they are strengthened; forts in such places are quickly surrounded by large ditches. For forts (castella) are named from the diminutive term for camps (castra). The many infantry and cavalry based in these are responsible for maintaining a safe route for convoys.

Vegetius, *Epitoma Rei Militari* 3.8

The 1st century fort was laid out to maximise the use of space within the interior but also to ensure quick access up onto the ramparts and towers. The ramparts (*vallum*) surround the site on all four sides, although on the southern side this has been truncated by the later Drycroft Lane. Excavation of the 1st century defences has revealed a considerable amount about the construction of both the ramparts and the associated ditches (*fossae*). The ramparts measured approximately 5m in width at base and were built of turf on a raft of oak. The height is more difficult to determine but was perhaps 3.8m high to the fighting platform, with a further timber revetment at the top adding an additional 2m. On the north and west sides, the ramparts were augmented by two v-shaped ditches – an inner

⁵ Probably deriving his text from the 1st-century writer – and governor of Britain – Iulius Frontinus.

and outer ditch. On the south-west and southern side, only a single ditch has been found and as yet no ditch has been identified on the east side.

There were four gateways through the ramparts (HER 1191.1.1), one on each side. These were all timber built and would probably have included a tower with a walkway bridging the gate span and connecting with the rampart platform; although only evidence of the foundation of these structures survive. The north gate was a single portal, while all three of the other gateways were double portals. Evidence for an associated guard chamber was found in relation to only the south gate. In addition to the towers above the gateways, there were probably also wooden towers at each corner. Bruton's 1907 excavations found some evidence for this in the form of blocks of masonry, which could potentially have been tower foundations (Booth 2001, 40).



Plate 5: view along the western rampart of the 1st century fort.

The interior of the fort was crossed by a central access road – the *Via Principalis* – running north to south (HER 1191.1.2). This was intersected by the *Via Praetoria*, which exited through the east gate and the *Via Decumana*, connecting the headquarters building with the west gate. Running inside the circuit of the ramparts was an *intervallum* road, designed for the rapid deployment of men up to the fighting platform; the latter was probably accessed by wooden steps, although no evidence for these has yet been found at Castleshaw.

The course of the principal roads outside the perimeter of the fort remains uncertain. It is generally presumed that the southern gate provided access directly onto the Chester to York road (Margary 712) and, when excavated in 1986, the surface of the gateway road was found to be heavily rutted as might be expected of a principal entrance. However, one of the most surprising elements of the

1995 evaluation in Daycroft Field was the lack of evidence of the road in this area although the agger is clearly visible as an earthwork c.100m south of the fort, and the same distance north of it. Given the location of the evaluation trenches, and the manner in which they were dug, it is extremely unlikely that a road of this size would have been missed (Redhead 1998, 79). One option is that the road was actually diverted through the fort but this would be very unusual. Far more likely is that the road was dug up and diverted when the fortlet was built, probably to accommodate the *vicus*. Certainly, Bruton's excavation found evidence for a road curving through the west and east fort gates to run along the northern side of the fortlet (Arrowsmith et al 2006, 21).

A second, subsidiary road is believed to have extended north leading out from the north gate but the nature and ultimate direction of this route is not known, although a track line angling up beside Broadhead Noddle might be associated with the former Roman route (Readhead *pers. com*). The course of the *Via Decumana* and *Via Praetoria* also remain unknown, although these presumably curved around to join the main road.

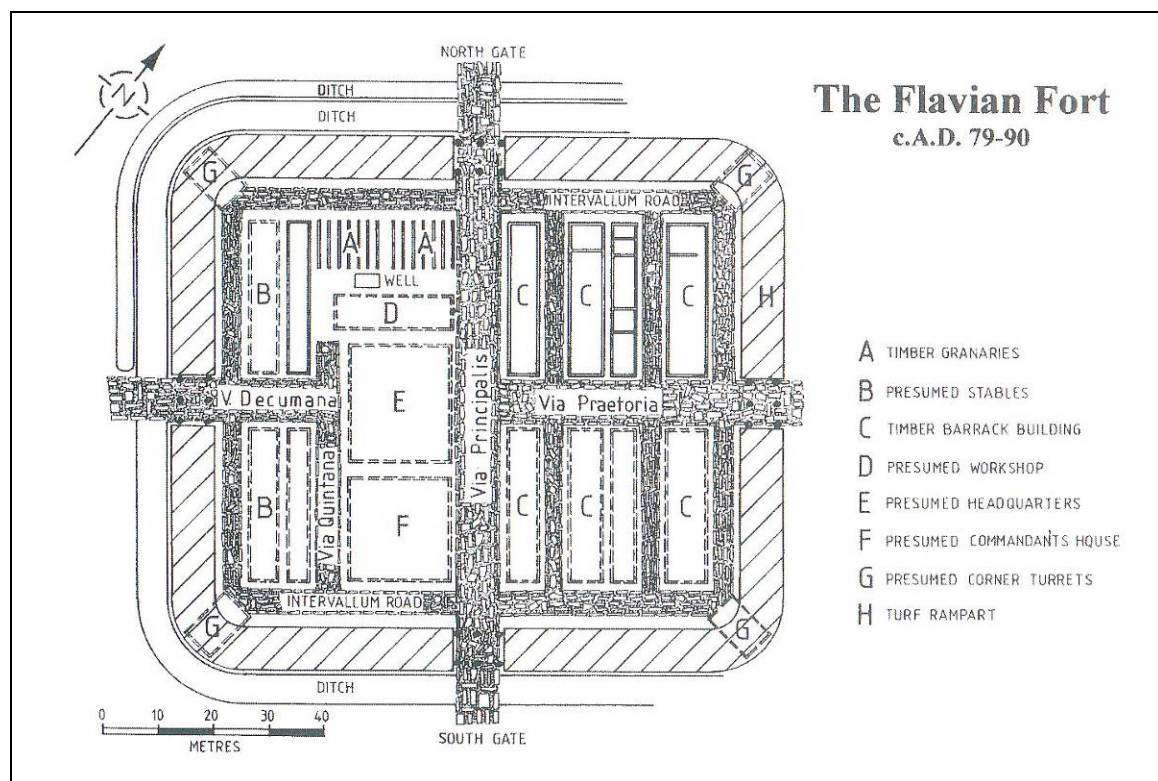


Figure 11: conjectural layout of 1st century Flavian fort © Ken Booth

The interior of the fort followed the standard layout detailed in the military manuals. The buildings included: the headquarters building (*principia*), the commandant's house (*praetorium*), granaries (*horrea*), barracks (*centuriae*), stables, workshops (*fabrica*), storehouse and latrines. The conjectural arrangement of these at Castleshaw is shown in Figure 9 and seems to follow a standard auxiliary fort pattern. The headquarters building (HER 1191.1.5), where the primary administrative and

religious function of the fort were carried out, was located at the junction of the *Via Principalis* and *Via Praetoria*, and followed a standard courtyard plan. The rampart and ditch of the later fortlet has been constructed partially over the remains of the 1st century *principia*. The commandant's house (HER 1191.1.6) was situated adjacent to the headquarters and appears to have been of a similar standard courtyard design. This would have housed the unit commandant and his family and provided accommodation for visitors while the troops were assigned the more utilitarian barrack blocks.

Each barrack was divided into ten rooms which housed the 80 men of each century, with a separate area at one end for the centurion. Based on these calculations there were potentially six barrack blocks at Castleshaw, situated on the eastern side of the fort. Evidence obtained during the 1957-64 excavations suggests that these structures were 33.5m long and 6.1m wide (HER 1191.1.3). The location of the stables for the mounted detachment and pack animals is currently unclear. The remains of a timber building, 3m and 30m long, was identified during the University of Manchester excavations in the north-west quarter of the fort, which might potentially be stables based on a similar layout known from Castleshaw's sister fort at Slack. Similarly, we also do not know the location of the fort parade ground, a feature commonly found in association with other garrison forts of the period.

The fort granaries were very important buildings and essential to the survival of a garrison. Each building was designed to hold enough grain to feed the unit for a year, measuring 12m by 9m across and built on timber posts to keep the grain dry and away from rats. Two granaries (HER 1191.1.4) were found in association with the fort, located in the north-west quarter adjacent to the *intervallum* road. In addition to the granaries, storehouses for equipment and provisions would have been built, although evidence for these at Castleshaw is currently sparse. Similarly, only one 1st century oven has been excavated, sealed under the ramparts of the 2nd century fortlet, although a number of these would have existed in order to supply the garrison. In addition, with 500 men living for a prolonged period in a very limited area, it was also essential to have a good water supply and efficient latrine system, in order to prevent the spread of sickness and disease. As much as 2.5 litres of water a day would be required by each man, as well as additional supplies for horses and utilities (Booth 2001, 43).

The area is not short of natural water supplies but how this was fed into and around the fort is currently unclear, although limited evidence for a stone lined drain was found during the 1907 excavations. Communal latrines were usually sited against the ramparts at the lowest part of a fort, which at Castleshaw is the south-west corner, but no excavation has been undertaken in this area. There is also no evidence of a bath house (*ibid*, 43). Two potential sites have been suggested for this; the first being a flat platform adjacent to Waters Clough below the southern rampart, the second a series of crop marks in Daycroft Field. Both of these areas were targeted during the Daycroft Field

evaluation but identified no evidence of a bath house, although the trenches at Water's Clough did show a silted former meander of the brook (Redhead 1996 & 1997; Booth 2001).

Another important element associated with the life - and death - of the fort would have been the cemetery. Roman law stated that burials had to be located outside the immediate environs of fort or town, a practical concern given the potential for the spread of disease. Both inhumations and cremations were common practice, although inhumation became more popular from the 2nd century onwards. Military campaign, accident and the harsh nature of the environment would have made death a constant factor at Castleshaw, but as yet no cemetery has been identified relating to the fort, later fortlet or civilian settlement. A number of early writers have made references to 'Burial Plek', a field opposite the old school in Castle Shaw village as being a possible location for the cemetery site although this could be a corruption of 'baiting place', with a number of examples of this from across the South Pennines (M. Buckley *pers. comm.*)

'Opposite the school is a small, uneven ground which is locally called the 'burying ground' and is where, it is supposed, the Roman soldiers were buried, but I do not think that any explorations have been made to prove the truth or falsify this supposition'

Joseph Bradbury, *Saddleworth Sketches*, 1871, 142

The fort appears to have been occupied for a relatively short period of time and was probably abandoned about AD 90, following the Roman withdrawal from Scotland and the subsequent reorganising of defence in northern Britain. Despite this, most of the forts in the Brigantian territory, including nearby Slack and Manchester, remained in use, so the vacation and possible dismantling of the fort at this time remains a puzzle. The auxiliary cohort at Castleshaw could have been re-deployed elsewhere, one possibility being that they may have been moved north to consolidate the new frontier. This could imply that the sparsely populated upland area was not perceived as being a major threat during this period, and that the local population could be controlled via the garrisons at the two adjacent forts (Walker 1989, 15).

Gaps in Our Understanding of the 1st century fort

Dating the foundation of the fort: *there is now mounting evidence for a pre-Agricola foundation date for Castleshaw as well as the trans-Pennine road Margary 712, but as yet, no absolute dating evidence has been established at the fort. Although this might be difficult to obtain, particularly given the problems of preservation related to the acid soils, modern scientific dating techniques (including dendro (tree ring dating) could provide a better understanding of the early foundation and development of both the fort and road. This could have a significant impact on our understanding of the development of military infrastructure across the region as a whole. A similar programme of radio-carbon dating and bore hole testing was recommended following the excavation of a section of the route at High Moor, Saddleworth (GMAU 1995) and produced valuable dating evidence*

(Brayshaw 1999). Looking at the nature of transition across all periods is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRf) (Brennand 2006, 175)

The internal layout of the fort: there are still a number of key buildings which have not been located namely stables, storerooms, latrines and workshops, as well as the apparent absence of any ditches on the eastern side of the site and the absence, so far, of an identified parade ground. This is unsurprising given that only 35% of the fort has been excavated. Unfortunately the scattering of the earlier excavations may have destroyed or obscured the possibility of a comprehensive understanding of some areas; although the 1984-88 excavations have proved that much information can still be gathered from re-excavating the old trenches.

Understanding how the fort functioned: connected with the above, there is a general scarcity of information about how the fort functioned from day-to-day. What the garrison ate. How water was brought into the site and how human waste and other rubbish was moved out or stored. However, the impact of the acid soils on the preservation of material like bones, and even coarse-ware domestic pottery, could have a considerable impact on our understanding of some of these aspects. The absence of a bath house is also perplexing given the size of the garrison and would warrant further study of the surrounding area; although investigations at Water's Clough and Daycroft Field have already been undertaken with the aim of targeting potential bath house sites. Similarly, the issue of a related cemetery also warrants investigation.

Understanding the road network: it is a priority to understand more about the course of the Margary 712 where it runs adjacent to the fort. Currently, the course of the road is unknown, given the absence of any evidence of the feature during the Daycroft Field excavations to the south of the fort and fortlet. Targeted excavation to the east and north of the fort might help identify the course of the road. Similarly, the road alignment from the north gate is also not properly understood. A combination of high resolution LiDAR survey and field survey might allow the course of this to be established at least to the point where it disappears beneath the reservoirs. Further investigation is also needed to define the course of the roads leading out of the east and west gates as well, and confirm whether they do join back with the main road.

Understanding the immediate hinterland: little work has taken place outside the interior of the fort. The question of a possible 1st century vicus remains an important issue for further investigation. Currently there is only evidence of a settlement associated with the 2nd century fortlet and, as yet, no sign of a 1st century precursor. This is quite unusual given that the most of auxiliary forts did have associated civilian communities, drawn by the attraction of a permanent garrison of troops keen to spend their pay. However, investigation of the surrounding area has so far been limited.

Understanding the wider landscape: there is the potential for a better understanding of how Castleshaw functioned within the wider landscape. This partially ties in with those issues raised in terms of understanding the distribution of Iron Age settlement in the area and how the forts interacted, if at all, with existing native settlements. This again raises the issue of whether there was a civilian settlement (vicus) related to the Flavian fort and whether food was being produced locally in

order to augment the garrison supplies. Palaeo-environmental samples associated with the fortlet, show managed pastureland surrounding the site in the 2nd century AD but little evidence so far of arable production. However, it is uncertain if a similar situation prevailed in the earlier period. A more comprehensive sampling strategy - covering material from both inside and outside the site - could reveal a great deal about the activities and infrastructure supporting fort life. A study of a broader finds assemblage may also provide information on the nature of materials being brought into the site ie. those materials that could not be provided locally. However, once more preservation in terms of both the archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence could have a considerable impact on the potential to advance an understanding in these areas. This is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRF) (Brennand 2006, 183).

How the fort was abandoned: exactly why the fort was abandoned at the end of the 1st century may remain a mystery but further evidence might be gained about the nature of its abandonment. It was common practice for forts to be slighted so that they could not be used by the enemy and so that materials could be utilised elsewhere. Was material from Castleshaw sent to Manchester or Slack? The possibility of a phase of later re-use, following the decline of both the fort and later fortlet, is also worthy of further investigation. Further research, excavation and wide area survey could provide interesting new information.

Understanding the broader national and international context of the site: considerable work has been undertaken by GMAU in terms of looking at how the fortlet layout relates to the broader national context of military fortlet design (Walker 1989, 70-129). This has resulted in an interesting and far reaching discussion on the form and role of the 2nd century site. A similar exercise has the potential to expand our understanding of the earlier Flavian fort, once some of the gaps in our understanding of the complex (see above) have been addressed.

'...the camp ought now to be taken in hand and scientifically treated'

Samuel Andrew in *Transaction of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Soc.* 1898

The 2nd century Trajanic fortlet

In the early years of the 2nd century the Scottish lowland forts were abandoned as the new frontier was established along the line of the Stanegate road from the Solway to the Tyne and, once again, there was a re-organisation of the garrisons across northern England (Walker 1996, 15). The withdrawal of troops from Scotland meant that Chester and York were once more much closer to the frontier and as a result, the volume of traffic on the trans-Pennine route may have increased, necessitating the re-instatement of Castleshaw, probably around AD 105. Manchester and Slack had remained in use throughout this period.

Like the fort, the fortlet (25) was built in timber with a turf rampart. It occupied a 0.2ha area, measuring 50m by 40m internally and was placed within the southern part of its predecessor,

sharing the southern defences and south gate (the *porta principalis dextra*) of the fort. It also showed two phases of construction, its occupation probably falling between c. AD 105 and c.120 (Walker 1989, 15).

The fortlet was surrounded by two 'punic' ditches (HER 1191.1. 10), which vary from the forts v-shaped ditches by having slopes of differing pitches; the outer counterscarp being an almost vertical face, while the inner scarp had a gentler slope. These were intended to lure attackers into the range of missiles hurled from the ramparts whilst the steep outer scarp hindered the enemies retreat. Along the bottom of some sections of the ditch ran a square-cut slot commonly termed an 'ankle breaker', although as these do not occur consistently throughout the ditch, they may have had more to do with the practicalities of construction rather than military intent (Walker 1996, 23). However, an anomalous feature found running half-way up the inner face of the ditch at the eastern corner, may well have had a defensive function, possibly as a *curvus*, designed to carry sharpened boughs, or thorn bushes, intended to form an obstacle against attackers (*ibid*; Booth 2001, 45).

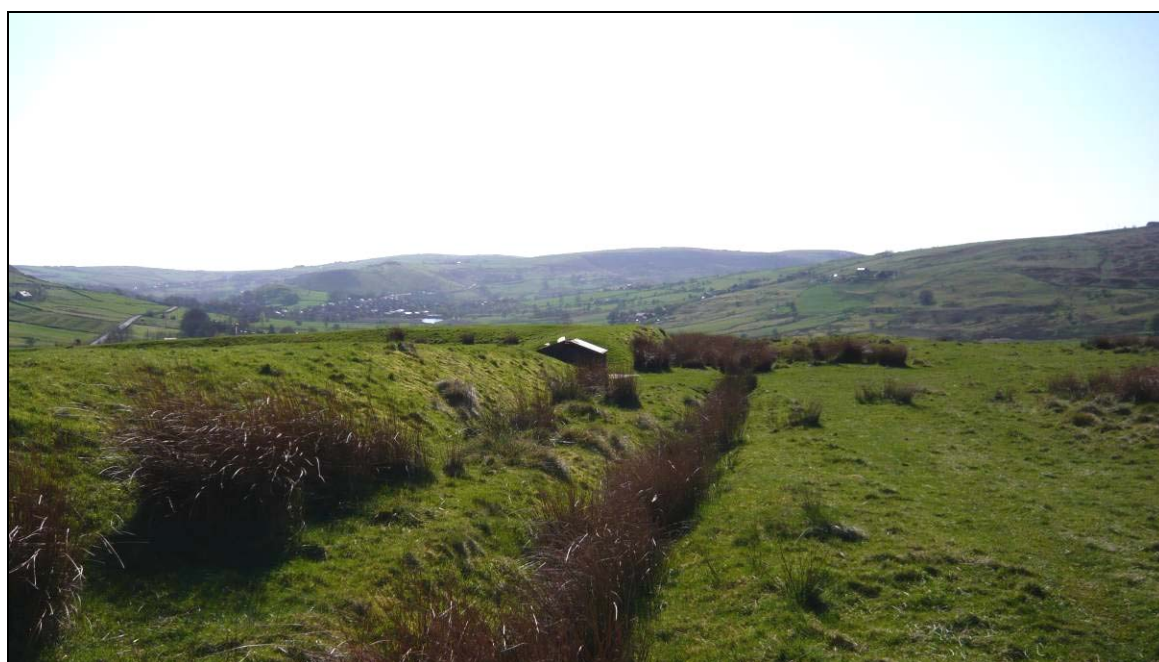


Plate 6: view south-west along northern rampart of the fortlet (reconstructed) with double ditches clearly visible.

The ramparts measured approximately 7m in width and were constructed of turf laid on rubble foundations (potentially from the destroyed 1st century fort). Based on the width at base, the ramparts may have stood to a height of 3.6m to the fighting platform, again probably protected by a 2m high timber breastwork. There is no real evidence of corner towers associated with the fortlet. Bruton's excavations in 1908 did identify rough coursed stonework at the corners of the structure, but there was no evidence of any postholes associated with a support structure. Similarly, the later GMAU excavations found very little evidence that would suggest corner towers (Walker 1989, 28).

The fortlet features two opposing gateways (HER 1191.1.11), centrally placed on the longer sides (north and south). The southern gateway re-used that of the earlier 1st century fort, while the northern gateway was located over the former *Via Principalis* and lay in front of the old headquarters building. The north gate was a single portal, 2.1m wide, and flanked by three pairs of posts, at this stage, the south gate was also of the same design, although 2.7m wide; both were connected by a paved road. Similar to the fort, the fortlet gates were presumably surmounted by wooden towers. The majority of fortlets generally feature only one gate, differing in this respect to forts, which normally have four. The reason for this indicates something of the different use and function of the installations. Forts needed to have the larger number of gateways in order to deploy troops quickly out through any side, but this does not appear to have been such a demanding requirement for a fortlet. This has led to the suggestion that fortlets functioned more as a local security force rather than as a major military command post (Walker 1989, 33).

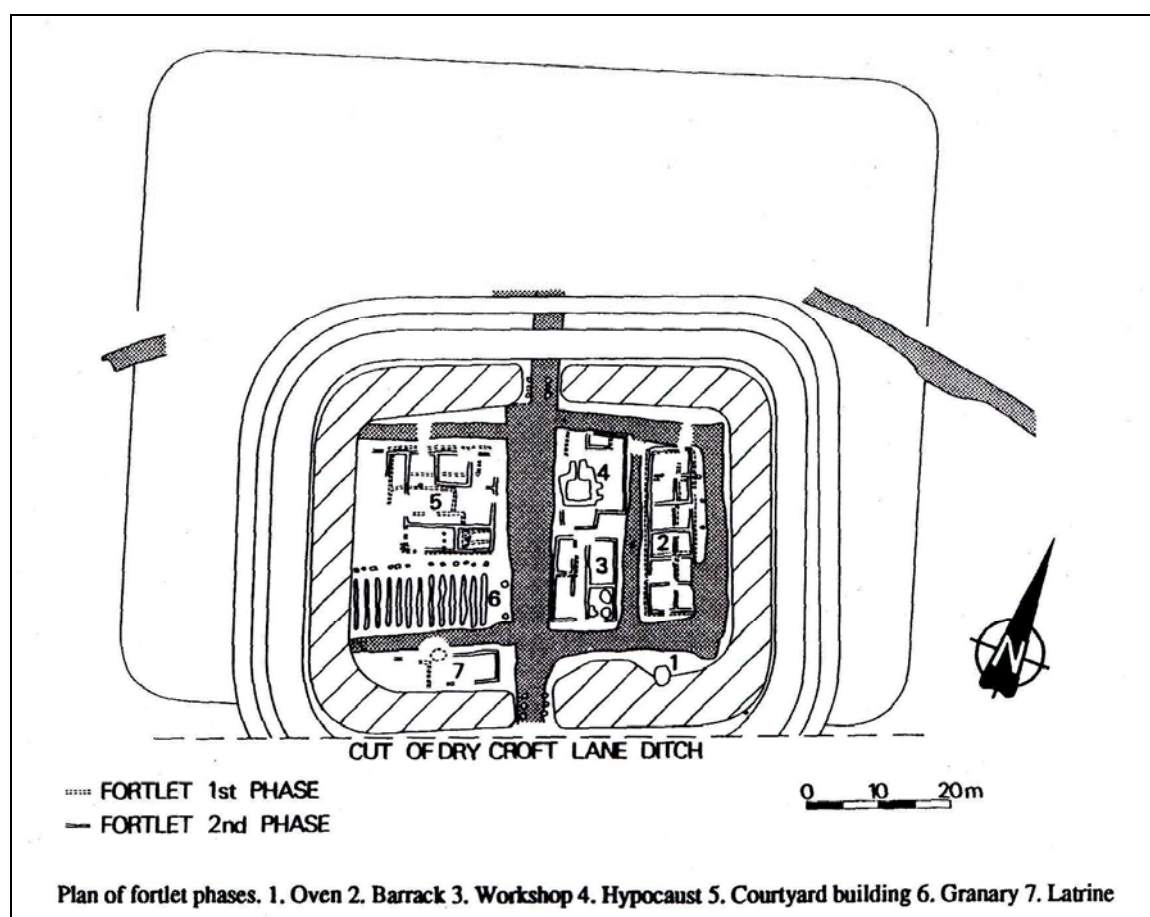


Figure 12: phased plan of fortlet showing layout of main elements (Walker 1989, 19) © GMAU

The interior of the fortlet was crossed by the main *Via Principalis* (HER 1191.1.12), which ran through the centre of the site between the two gateways (re-using part of the old fort road). A second road lay within the southern half of the site and provided access to the eastern and western parts of the complex. A continuous *intervallum* road ran along the north, east and south-east sides but was

markedly absent from the west and south-west sides, probably due to space constraints. The lack of an *intervallum* road on the west and south sides, further supports the idea that the fortlet was not serving a military role in the same capacity as the earlier fort (*ibid*, 39).

The road system divided the fortlet into three main areas (Figure 10). Buildings identified within the fortlet interior included a single barrack block (HER 1191.1.13), found in the eastern half of the site and measuring 23m by 6m; this contained 6 sets of rooms. Based on these dimensions the size of the garrison at Castleshaw is estimated to be in the region of 40-48 men (Booth 2001, 50); considerably smaller than the earlier auxiliary fort. In addition to the barrack block, a hypocaust building was identified measuring 3m by 3.5m internally and constructed in two-phases. These are often found associated with a bath house building but there were no related features at Castleshaw which would indicate this function. The hypocaust, therefore, was probably heating associated with the commanding officer's house (HER 1191.1.15). Behind the hypocaust building was a workshop (HER 1191.1.15), possibly a blacksmith's, given the type of archaeological material found in association.



Plate 7: view north-east towards the southern gate of the fortlet. The outline of the latrine block and edge of the granary (reconstructed) is just visible in the foreground.

In the north-west quarter of the fortlet was a courtyard building (HER 1191.1.19), which had seen at least four phases of build (Booth 2001, 52). The structure contained a range of buildings including potential stables and may have served a number of functions, acting both as an administrative centre (*principia*) and accommodation for official visitors (*mansio*). Adjacent to this building was located a massive granary (*horrea*) (HER 1191.1.18), the capacity of which far exceeded the size of the garrison. It measured 18.5m long and 7.5m wide and was built up hard against the western rampart with no room for the *intervallum* road. The unusual presence and size of these buildings provides a

further clue as to the function of the fortlet, suggesting that it might have been serving as a supply centre on route along the York to Chester road.

Structures associated with the day-to-day life of the inhabitants are more evident at the fortlet than has so far been found in relation to the fort. An oven (HER 1191.1.14), originally uncovered during the 1908 excavations, was set into the back of the rampart near the south-east corner. Possible evidence of the latrines, in the form of a timber structure measuring 5.64m by 6m, was found in the south-west quarter (Booth 2001, 53).

The fortlet was finally abandoned in the AD 120s, probably around the time of the construction of Hadrian's Wall and the resulting re-organisation of troops and military defences. Small units like the Castleshaw garrison may have been sent up to the wall during this period and no later Roman material has been identified across the site. Troops were also withdrawn from Castleshaw's sister fort at Slack leaving a re-building phase in stone unfinished; however, the main fort at Manchester remained in use until the military withdrawal from Britain during the early 5th century in AD 410.

Function of the Fortlet

Three types of fortlet have been identified across the country: 'Barrack fortlet' to house a detachment of troops; 'Base fortlet' for housing a dispersed unit and 'Commissary fortlet' a supply and administration centre. Each of the three types had a different concentration of buildings according to function, although the other utilities like water and unit accommodation remained the same. Given the size of the granary and administration buildings and the relatively small size of the barrack block at Castleshaw, it has been argued that this was either a commissary fortlet, or possibly a base fortlet, or even a hybrid of the two, having both a supply and local policing role (Walker 1989, 106; Brennand 2006, 65).

The Civilian Settlement

Excavation carried out between 1995 and 1996 by GMAU identified the remains of a civilian settlement (*vicus*) in Daycroft Field, just to the south of the fortlet (HER 1191.3.1). Such settlements were quite common in association with military centres like Castleshaw. In Britain, 101 *vici* have so far been identified associated with forts and fortlets, and only a very small number (36%) are known without an associated settlement, although it is thought that this number would decrease with further investigation (Redhead 1998, 80). Such settlements were usually established in the first instance by camp followers but soon the presence of soldiers and regular wages would have drawn a mixed population of soldiers' dependants, veterans, merchants, craftsmen and others.

Most *vici* are rectangular in form and divided into domestic and commercial areas. Within the domestic area, evidence suggests that individual houses were separated by drains and narrow lanes while in the commercial zone were industries such as metal working, pottery production and

tanning. Currently, excavation of the civilian settlement at Castleshaw have been fairly limited and largely restricted to very small areas of investigation. These test pits have, nevertheless, revealed the remains of roads, ditches, floors drains, hearths, wall foundations and post holes, as well as other general occupation deposits. Further exploration has also been carried out at The Tangs, to the west of the fort, to identify any activity on this side of the monument and the potential extent of the settlement along the course of the Roman road. However, evidence here was sparse and largely confined to those areas close to the south-west corner, including the possible remains of a Roman road linking the 712 to the western gate (*ibid*).

Whilst the test pitting methodology has proved the best method to evaluate the existence, form, extent and preservation of settlement evidence given the limited funds and time available, there is so far only a piecemeal picture of the potential archaeology associated with the *vicus*. Despite this, a great deal of information has been gleaned. One of the buildings associated with the site seems to have been constructed of stone, or set on a stone base, which varies from the more general design of post-set timber buildings commonly found across Romano-British settlements of this date. High quality Samian ware was found in association with this building and could also indicate a high status structure or trading establishment.

Palaeo-environmental analysis has also shed some light on the management of the local environment during the Roman period. Evidence from other *vici* sites suggest that the population was generally reliant on meat and grain being brought in, rather than being involved in agricultural production themselves. However, the remains of two ditches, running out of the settlement area at Castleshaw might be evidence of field allotments associated with a surrounding field system. Palaeo-environmental samples taken from the fill of these has also shown that the upland environment at this time was managed open pastureland, indicating that the area was being exploited for production. Two grains of cereal pollen were also identified but not enough to really constitute evidence of arable cultivation (*ibid*, 80) but writing tablets from Vindolanda suggest that, at least by the mid-2nd century, there was a strong working relationship between forts, *vici* and local farmers operating in their hinterland (Philpott 2006, 69).

Evidence from the Castleshaw *vicus* currently points towards an early 2nd century date and there is little to suggest any settlement associated with the earlier 1st century auxiliary fort. This is quite unusual, although it must be kept in mind that so far investigation has been quite limited. Earlier evidence might have also been partly destroyed by the later 2nd century activity. Elements of the *vicus* extend over sections of the original fort road and during this phase, the Margary 712 appears to have been diverted to run through the abandoned fort and past the north gate of the fortlet, potentially to avoid the civilian settlement.

Further investigation of the *vicus* could potentially illuminate the issue and expand our current understanding of the role and function of the fortlet, particularly whether it was functioning as a

garrison base for troops detached elsewhere or if it was a commissary site. The small size of the barrack block would indicate that very few men were garrisoned at the fortlet; too few to account for the presence of a *vicus*. However, if the fortlet was a garrison base, then any number of detachments may have congregated at the fort at a given time to receive their pay, and the population of the *vicus* would have been all too willing to relieve them of it. Alternatively, if the fortlet was a commissary supply depot, then there would be very little to sustain a local community, unless units were coming through to collect supplies. In this case one might expect the nature of the *vicus* to be different, potentially acting as an annexe of the fortlet and providing additional storage, stabling and accommodation. Certainly, although the sample is quite small, the finds assemblage seems to be typically military in character, supporting the theory that Daycroft Field was a military annexe rather than a civilian settlement.

Decommissioning and Abandonment

Despite the questions that remain hanging over the nature of the *vicus*, it is apparent that the settlement was completely dependent upon the military station for its continued existence. When the fortlet was abandoned in the mid-120s, palaeo-environmental evidence suggests that the well managed herb-rich pasture on the valley floor and lower slopes quickly reverted to the native grasses, bracken, heather and scrub. So it seems the whole area was abandoned, with apparently no further evidence of activity until the development of the settlement of Castle Shaw, possibly during the medieval period or earlier.

Following military withdrawal, Roman forts were generally dismantled to prevent re-occupation by a hostile force. There was evidence of burning, thought to be associated with the abandonment of the fortlet, found within the barrack block and in those trenches dug within the *vicus* at Daycroft Field. However, the full extent and nature of the decommissioning remains unclear. The fort may have remained a visible structure in the landscape, or at least in local memory, for some time. As such, it could have been an attractive prospect for any local militia or hostile force and the absence of any evidence of later occupation might suggest something about the secure nature of the area in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and possibly why the station was withdrawn in the first place. This has implications in terms of understanding the nature of Romano-British settlement and occupation across the Saddleworth valley during the later Roman period, and possibly the Early Medieval transition following military withdrawal from Britain in the early 5th century.

Gaps in Our Understanding of the 2nd century fortlet

The fortlet, has been the focus of recent re-excavation and detailed assessment and, as a consequence, much more is known about this than the earlier fort. However, there still remain gaps in our knowledge (although many of these apply to both fort and fortlet):

The transition from fort to fortlet: *questions remain about the relationship of the old fort to the new fortlet. Presumably the fort was slighted when it was first abandoned, although the extent of the*

destruction, and whether it was dismantled or destroyed, remains unclear. The GMAU excavations found little evidence for re-use of earlier foundations or material. Is there any evidence of use during the intervening period or was the site completely abandoned? Potentially the area of the fort outside of the fortlet might have been re-used either for extra-mural settlement or as an annex for protecting extra stores or accommodating troops and convoys in transit. Looking at the nature of transition across all periods is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRf) (Brennand 2006, 175)

Understanding how the fortlet functioned on a day to day basis: although much is known about the internal layout of the fortlet, questions still remain about how water was brought into the site and how human waste and other rubbish was moved out or stored. Answers may lie in the areas immediately outside the ramparts, including within the footprint of the fort. Whether or not there was a bath house is also unknown. Bath houses were not standard in fortlets but given the unusual function of Castleshaw and the presence of the associated vicus, a bath house may have been present. Similarly, as with the fort, the location of a related cemetery is a subject warranting further research, particularly given the presence of a possible civilian population in addition to the garrison. The identification of a cemetery could reveal considerable amounts about the nature of the Castleshaw community although the site may well lie under the current hamlet. Again, the preservation of materials in the acid soils is a factor which could potentially limit understanding of these areas.

Understanding the immediate hinterland: The work carried out in Daycroft Field has illustrated the enormous potential for information from an examination of the area outside the fortlet. Further work on the civilian settlement could reveal considerable information about the nature and function of the community, its relationship with the fortlet, and whether there was a 1st century precursor, or even a pre-Roman Iron Age settlement; although current dating evidence would indicate the vicus only relates to the 2nd century.

Understanding the wider landscape: there is the potential for a better understanding of how the fortlet and vicus functioned within the wider landscape, in particular, evidence of economic production (field systems etc.), together with any evidence of wider settlement distribution. This would have a particular relevance with regards the interpretation of the fortlet as a hybrid commissary and base fortlet, possibly acting as a supply depot and local policing unit. During the 1st and early 2nd century AD, this area is still frontier territory and there are questions relating to the nature of the surrounding area and the degree of assimilation and integration with the native tribes. Is the fortlet evidence that the Romans were in the process of trying to establish self-supporting 'Romanised' settlements as they had done successfully in the south? Whilst there may have been a need for a strong security presence in order to protect supplies being brought in and moved along the trans-Pennine route, the fortlet may also have acted as an important local trading centre dealing with the supply and distribution of both 'imported' and locally produced goods for both the military, civilian and native population. In particular, extraction industries, like iron working may have potentially been being undertaken in the area and brought to the fortlet for working. Evidence of

medieval iron smelting sites have been found close to the site at Piethorne (Redhead 1996a) but equally ore may have been gained and worked in the earlier period using similar bloomer technology.

A study of the wider environment, using the existing Castleshaw and Piethorne survey as a baseline but with the addition of further palaeo-environmental sampling, LiDAR transcription and targeted geophysical survey, might provide further information on these issues. Understanding the broader physical, cultural and economic landscape of a site is one of the overall regional research aims identified in the North West Archaeological Research Framework (NWRF) (Brennand 2006, 183).

Understanding the decline of the fortlet: Evidence of burning and deliberate destruction dating to the abandonment of the fort was found during the Daycroft Field excavations. In addition, within the fortlet, the barrack block also appears to have been burnt at around this time. Both indicate that the fortlet and vicus were slighted. The palaeo-environmental record further collaborates that the vicus fell out of use very soon after the fortlet was deserted. However, there could potentially be phases of re-use in the later Roman and post-Roman periods. Although there was not the same continuity of use until the end of the Roman period which is found at other fort sites, particularly those along Hadrian's Wall, Castleshaw might have remained a visually important element in the landscape for some time after it fell out of use. In addition, there is also the question of what happened to the road both following the abandonment of the fortlet and after the withdrawal of Roman troops in the early 5th century, as well as the relationship of the later medieval settlement to both the forts and roads.

The Early Medieval Period: An Absence of Evidence

As yet, no archaeological evidence of Early Medieval (AD 410-1066) activity has been found in association with Castleshaw. This is not unusual: across the whole Greater Manchester area there is scant evidence dating to this period and, as a consequence, there has been a great reliance on contemporary 'histories' and place-name studies to provide an understanding of life after the Roman military withdrawal in AD 410. Traditionally, this has led to a rather bleak interpretation of life in the two centuries following the collapse of Roman governance, with a flowering of art and culture only coming with the gradual emergence of dominant Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the 7th century. However, new archaeological evidence, in particular aerial landscape surveys and palaeo-environmental sampling, is slowly beginning to flesh-out a picture of daily life within the emerging settlements, many of which formed the foundations of later medieval hamlets, villages and towns.

Across the region, pollen samples taken from peat deposits on the uplands are providing a much better understanding of the nature of the Anglo-Saxon environment and has shown there was much greater activity in the area than previously envisaged based on the scant material remains (Newman 2006, 93). Combined with radio-carbon dating, pollen samples taken from across the North West over the past 20 years has shown that there was not a sudden episode of woodland regeneration in the 4th and 5th centuries after the Roman withdrawal. Instead, the evidence indicates a much more gradual increase in regeneration, which was not really extensive until the 6th century; although this

varies considerably across the region. The type of prevalent flora also indicates that the warmer, drier conditions observed in the Roman period continued through to the Early Medieval period, meaning that crops could be grown successfully at higher altitudes.

Castleshaw lay within the great kingdom of Northumbria which had achieved political eminence by the 8th century, although subsequently pressures from the neighbouring kingdoms of Mercia to the south and west, and the constant drain of Scandinavian attack and later occupation, brought about a spiralling decline, which was to last up until the mid-12th century (Newman 2006, 93; Sawyer 1998). Settlement evidence across this period remains poor and is largely restricted to that identified during developer funded excavations of urban areas which, over the past few years, have considerably expanded our understanding of the region. These have shown that there is very little evidence of the continued occupation in the immediate post-Roman period at Chester, Ribchester or Manchester, although there is an indication of some continuity of use further north at Carlisle. At a number of former Roman urban sites across the country the enigmatic 'dark earth' has been identified. This is a layer of organic, humic material which has been interpreted, amongst other things, as being soil brought in by the populous to grow crops within a fallen town although no such evidence has been found in association with the smaller forts.



Plate 8: *modern aerial view of the fort and adjacent hamlet of Castle Shaw, does this have Early Medieval (Anglo-Saxon) origins?*

Evidence of a continuity of use has been found at some auxiliary forts, most notably at Birdoswald, one of the forts on Hadrian's Wall, where there is extensive evidence of re-use dating to this period,

including a large timber hall structure built on the remains of the old granary (Wilmott 1998). However, by the early 5th century Castleshaw had potentially lain abandoned and disused for nearly 300 years and may not have seemed an attractive prospect for war bands looking to re-use strategic military site. Nevertheless, this does not necessarily negate the potential for a phase of re-settlement at the site, although no evidence has as yet been uncovered. This also largely depends on what happened to the site following military withdraw in the early 2nd century, although all the current evidence points towards complete abandonment.

Where Early Medieval settlement has been identified, the majority of structures appear to have been constructed in timber and, consequently, tend to leave quite ephemeral and difficult to determine evidence in the archaeological record. The excavation of important Anglo-Saxon sites like Mucking, West Stow and Birdoswald in the late 1960s and early 70s, revealed a great deal about the nature of Early Medieval archaeology – in particular the identification of post holes, post pads and construction slots - which had a marked impact on the identification of these types of features in subsequent excavations. This has led to the identification of previously 'hidden' settlements at sites like West Overton in West Suffolk and Crickley Hill in the Cotswolds. The later GMAU fortlet excavations were undertaken in the light of this knowledge but earlier investigations of the 1st century fort could have missed some important material.

In addition, prior to the widespread use of scientific dating techniques, deposits were largely dated by pottery typologies which were inevitably Roman in date but could be attributed to later residual use. However, all the material recovered from Castleshaw fort and fortlet has a clear 2nd century cut-off, with no evidence of later material. The palaeo-environmental evidence also seems to indicate that there was no further cultivation of the area after the fortlet was abandoned, although the sampling programme has so far been quite limited.

At other sites, Early Medieval settlement has been found located close to former forts, if not within them. At Fremington, near Penrith, four sunken featured buildings were identified just east of the Roman fort at Brougham, next to the road over the Stainmore Pass (Brennand 2006, 98). The medieval hamlet of Castle Shaw could, therefore, have Early Medieval roots, with the new settlement being established further along the old Roman road from the fortlet. The name 'Castleshaw' might also be connected with this. Although not appearing in the documentary record until the mid 16th century (Arrowsmith 2010, 7) it is Anglo-Saxon in origin from the Old English *shaw* - or *sceaga* – meaning copse or thicket by the castle - or 'fort'. Similarly, elsewhere across the valley, place-name evidence suggests that Saddleworth was widely populated by the end of the Early Medieval period. The name Saddleworth - first documented in the late 12th or early 13th century - is one of a series of 'worths' scattered across the central Pennines. 'Worth', is an Old English word meaning an enclosure and it has been suggested that these are associated with upland pastures and the creation of large, late Anglo-Saxon estates (Buckley 2009a).

Gaps in Our Understanding of the early medieval period

The nature of post-Roman occupation: *there is currently no evidence of the continued occupation of the Castleshaw forts following the abandonment of the fortlet c. AD 120. Palaeo-environmental evidence suggests that the cultivation associated with the vicus also fell out of use around this time. However, only a small percentage of the fort site has been excavated, and much of that before the large scale identification of Anglo-Saxon settlement sites in the wider archaeological record. Evidence for a later phase of Early Medieval re-use (or even 2nd to 4th century occupation) might still be preserved in the northern half of the fort, outside the fortlet area or within the vicus.*

The foundations of medieval Castle Shaw: *the absence of evidence of any post 2nd century use imply the site was completely deserted by the Early Medieval period or could indicate that the settlement focus shifted further east and that the current hamlet of Castle Shaw may have Early Medieval foundations.*

Understanding the broader landscape during the post-Roman period: *as with the other periods, a broader survey of the landscape might reveal information about the changing nature of settlement, agriculture and development across the landscape during this rather elusive period of history. In particular, any evidence of the continuity of land use across the upland during the Early Medieval period and of use, or re-use, of Roman infrastructure like the road system. Did medieval Castle Shaw develop as an Anglo-Saxon roadside settlement immediately outside the fort? If so, are there any parallels to be drawn between the nature of post-Roman development on the trans-Pennine route and that further north along the Stainmore Pass?*

The Later Medieval Period: Monastic Grange and the Rise of Medieval Settlement

Until the creation of the civil parish of Saddleworth in 1853, the area was previously known as the Township of Quick, and lay within the ecclesiastical parish of Rochdale; part of the Agbrigg Wapentake of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Early writers have claimed that Quick appears in the Domesday book as 'Thoac'. However, more recent work casts doubts on this, associating Thoac with Thong near Holmfirth, an outlier of the Manor of Wakefield. It seems that at this date Saddleworth was part of the Salford Hundred which was poorly documented in Domesday (Buckley 2009a, 27).

The township was divided into four 'meres' – Friarmere, Lordsmere, Shawmere and Quickmere - derived from the Old English word for boundary. Castleshaw lay in Friarmere, the northernmost division separated from Lordsmere to the south by 'the great way' a medieval routeway which led down from Standedge but following a path distinct from the earlier Roman road. This ran along the Friarmere boundary which lay to the south-east of the site, just north of what is now Waterworks Lane.

The name first appears in the documentary record in 1455 (Buckley 2009a, 45-6) and was

previously known as *Hilbrighthope*, possibly from the personal name 'Hildebeorht' combined with the Old English suffix 'hop', meaning small enclosed valley. Interestingly, however, it also appears as *Hilbrighthorp*, *thorp* being an Old Scandinavian suffix meaning a hamlet or farmstead. This could have some significance in terms of pointing towards an Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian precursor to the later hamlet, although place-name evidence can be notoriously misleading.

By the mid 12th century, the de Lacy family tenanted the land to the de Stapletons, along with a number of other manors within the Honour of Pontefract (Buckley 2009a). The de Stapletons granted part of the Hildebrighthope estate to the Cistercian Abbey of Roche sometime in the late 12th century, although the exact date is unclear it is now thought to be before 1199 (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996,43). A further grant was made by Robert de Stapleton c.1245 which described the land to be granted as the whole of the present Friarmere (M. Buckley *pers. comm.*). The estate remained in the possession of the abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries at the beginning of the 16th century.

The de Stapletons continued to hold Lordsmere, to the south of Castleshaw, which remained under their control until the death of Roger de Stapleton without male heir in c.1260. His estates were then divided between his two daughters, Emma and Clarissa, although they were later united under the ownership of Clarissa's grandson, Warin de Scargill of Scargill, North Yorkshire c.1310. He later granted the manor of Saddleworth to his brother-in-law, Robert de Holland, the land passing through the family to their successors, the Lovells, until the 1420s when, after a prolonged court case, the estate was restored once more to the Scargills (Arrowsmith 2010, 8; Buckley 2009a, 32). On the death of Sir Robert Scargill in 1531, the land passed by marriage to the Tunstalls of Thurland Castle near Lancaster, who retained the manor until 1590 (Buckley 2009a, 32-3).

The Monastic Grange

The land at Friarmere formed part of a monastic grange, an outlying farming estate run by lay brothers and labourers, which grew produce to support the main house and potentially a surplus for wider distribution. The system of granges was fundamental to the successful expansion and management of estates by the Cistercians and was essential to the self-sufficiency of the order, supplying the main house with food, clothing, utensils and building materials. The Hilbrighthope grange was probably located on or near the present hamlet of Grange (SD 9865 0901), situated on the northern slopes the Castleshaw valley, 1.2km south-west of the fort. It first appears in the documentary sources in an assize case, dated 1269-9, occurring again in the 1297 Lay Subsidy rolls, although the name almost certainly dates from some time before this.

Some idea of the nature of the grange estate can be gleaned from a dispute recorded in a Court of Common Pleas case in 1311 (Buckley 2009a, 40). This was between the Abbot of Roche and the then lord of the manor, Warin de Scargill, great grandson of Robert de Stapleton. The document, confirms the details of the earlier land grant by Robert de Stapleton, it states

‘to East, West, North soe farre as my land reacheth with all buildings, woods, meadows, feedings, waters, pastures and all appurtenances and other things under the earth and above the earth with the whole Forest an all other lib’ties to ye said Foreste belonging’

This would indicate that in the early 14th century the estate was still classified as private forest or chase but that a transition was in place, as across the rest of Saddleworth, towards enclosure and settlement (M. Buckley *pers. comm.*). The monks were granted in this document *‘full power to inclose all the said tenements by the divisions aforesaid altogether, as ditched, and the ditches if thrown down to make up and renew as often as they please’*. The *‘meadows, feedings and pastures’* referred to in the text were probably associated with cattle farming. The 1297 Lay Subsidy rolls recording the existence of a herd of 10 cattle and 6 oxen at Friarmere; presumably raised for both meat and dairy production as well as for leather and vellum.

Granges, like other manors, often featured a central domestic structure surrounded by ancillary buildings and frequently included a mill and tithe barn. An indenture of 1310 refers to *‘tithes of garbs of all lands cultivated, and to be cultivated, pertaining to the said place of Hildebrihtop’* indicating that crops were being grown at Saddleworth in the early 14th century. Other specialist crops, like apples for cider and herbs for the infirmary, were also commonly cultivated at grange sites. There may have also been fish ponds located on the estate, as under monastic law both friars and lay brothers would have been prohibited from eating meat on Fridays. Often relying instead on fish breeding and stock ponds was therefore a common feature of many grange sites. As yet no ponds have been identified which might relate to this period but these would have most probably been located along the valley bottom, adjacent to the Hull Beck, in the area now covered by the reservoirs.

Meat produced by the grange was supplemented by the right of free warren - that is hunting rights – across Friarmere. This was an issue which brought the abbey and lord of the manor into frequent conflict. As early as 1292 the crown questioned by what right the abbot claimed free warren in Friarmere and certain other lands (Arrowsmith 2010, 8), while the later 1314 charter specifically acknowledges the hunting rights of the abbey. Hunting was a jealously guarded privilege in the 13th and 14th century and an important indication of status. During this period, the adjacent Lordsmere is thought to have been a chase or private hunting park; the baronial or manorial equivalent of the larger royal hunting forest. Hunting not only provided meat to grace the lords table but, more importantly, hunting parties provided the perfect vehicle for political manoeuvring. The significance of hunting rights is evident from the 13th century charter, with the de Stapletons granting out freehold land in Saddleworth but strictly retaining all hunting rights (Buckley 2009a, 31-2, 43).

Despite the prevalence of historical material relating to Friarmere, very little archaeological evidence has been identified. In fact, the only securely dated material is from two iron-smelting sites (HER

5578.1.0 and 10270.1.0) on the northern slopes (SD 993 097 and SD 99 106) of the Castleshaw valley, approximately 1.5km from the site (Redhead 1994; 1996a). The 1314 charter interestingly makes a specific reference to rights to '*things under the earth*', a reference to mineral rights for the extraction of coal and iron ore.

Cudworth Pasture, the first of the iron smelting sites was discovered and examined by Ammon Wrigley in 1907 and later re-excavated by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit when a second site was also discovered and recorded c. 200m away at Spa Clough (HER 10270.1.0). Both sites contained the remains of a free-standing shaft or bloomery-type furnace base. In addition, the remains of an ore roasting bed, dumps of untreated iron stone, a possible raking platform, and a large slag spoil heap, were also identified at Cudworth Pasture. Radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dates, place both sites in the medieval period, specifically the late 12th to early 14th century, when the area was under the direct control of the abbey (*ibid*).

Variations in the economy, as well as the effects of plague and warfare, and the demise of the lay-brotherhood brought about changes in the structure and organisation of the Cistercian granges and by the 14th century, many were leased to lay tenants or farmed as demesne lands. No documentary evidence appears to exist for the continuation of the grange at Friarmere after the early 14th century and by 1455 the abbey has begun to list those tenants leasing land on the estate (Buckley 2009a, 45-6).

In 1538 Roche Abbey was dissolved and its lands came into possession of the crown. A valuation of Friarmere estate made at this time included '*the land there called Castilshawe*' tenanted to the Scholefields - John, Alexander and Lawrence holding a lease of three quarters of the land and Edmund a lease for the remaining quarter. In 1543, the manor of Friarmere was sold off to a new owner, Arthur Asheton of Rochdale, who purchased the estate on behalf of himself and Roger Gartside. The land was held in common until 1553 when it was partitioned, with Gartside holding the northern moiety, while Asheton retained the southern division which included the settlement at Castle Shaw (Bradbury 1871, 193).

Gaps in Our Understanding of the medieval period

Nature of the medieval grange: little is known about the operation of the medieval grange in the Castleshaw Valley. Documentary evidence would indicate the grange might have been operating primarily as a vaccary - a large medieval cattle farm - and it would be interesting to understand how this fitted in with the broader infrastructure of the abbey. A wide area survey may identify features that survive in the landscape and which relate to this period of use. In particular, there may be further evidence of agricultural and industrial activity, including additional smelting sites and evidence of mineral ore extraction and quarrying.

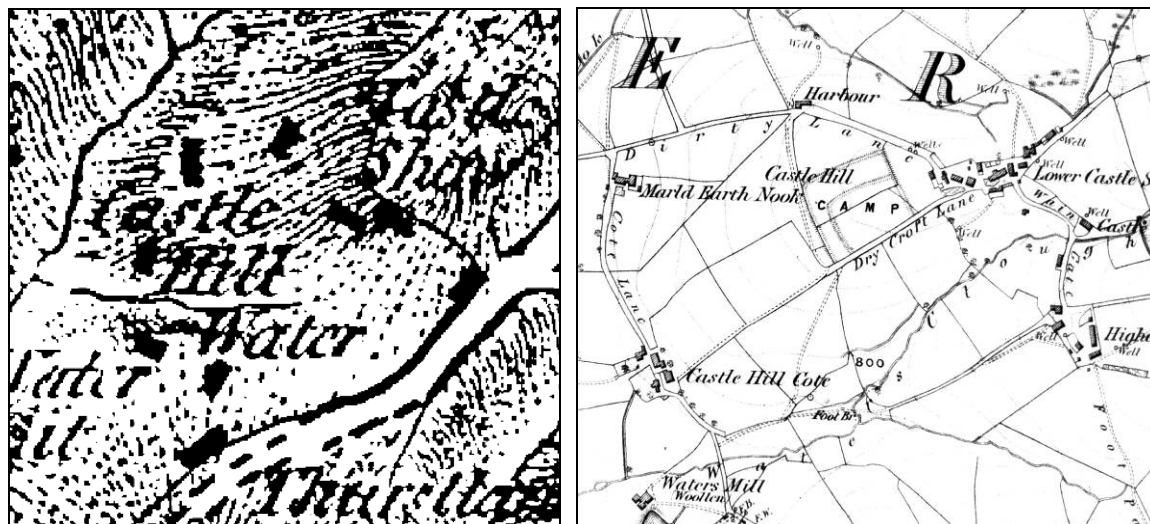
The growth of the medieval hamlet: across the region, settlement study has largely focused on

nucleated villages and moated sites rather than the origins of more dispersed sites like Castle Shaw (Newman 2006, 115). The exact nature of any medieval settlement adjacent to the site remains unknown. Documentary evidence, and the echoes of settlement layout preserved on later maps, would seem to indicate Castle Shaw grew up around the road junction and there is no evidence to suggest a more nucleated settlement at this time. However, as yet there is no archaeological dating evidence for the foundation of the settlement. In particular, whether there was an Early Medieval or Medieval precursor of the settlement or whether the hamlet only comes into existence in the 18th century.

Do elements of the medieval hamlet survive? Further investigation of the hamlet might help identify the extent and layout of the original settlement, and if any earlier fabric still survives associated with the extant or demolished buildings.

Post Medieval: Development of Agricultural Communities and the Expansion of Industry

The king's grant in 1543 provides some indication of the nature of Castleshaw at the medieval/post-medieval transition. It is listed, together with Grange, under the ownership of the Scholefields. John, Alexander and Lawrence Scholefield held half of Grange and three quarters of Castleshaw and Edmund Scholefield held the other quarter. Castleshaw at this time was referred to as 'terra', rather than a messuage, which possibly implies it was unsettled farm land attached to the Grange. However, Edmund's property may have been a messuage, probably at Broadhead, where he is recorded as tenant in 1618. The term 'messuage' or 'tenement' where it appears in land deeds, refers to a farm made up of a dwelling house, outbuilding and land, while the word 'cottage' was used to describe a dwelling house without any attached land. Land across the Castleshaw valley was divided up and associated with farms in the fold by the end of the 16th century (M. Buckley *pers. comm.*).



Figures 13 & 14: extract from Thomas Jeffrey's Map of Yorkshire (1771) alongside First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map (1854) of the same area

In 1618, the Asheton family sold off the estate to its tenants. By this stage, the valley had been transformed from a tract of moorland and pasture, to a complex of new farmsteads, most of the farmers living in a hamlet at the top of the hill known at this stage as 'Castle Hill' (Hunt 1986, 67). 'Higher Castleshaw Farm' (HER 1107.1.0) was a single farm, probably held at this time by Robert Scholefields, but later re-built by Francis Scholefield who inherited the property in 1712. Other farms were re-built (or possibly established) in the early 18th century, including Waters Farm (HER 10275.1.0) by 1704, Waters Cote (HER 10273.1.0) by 1712 and Castlehill Cote (HER 5561.1.0) by 1715 (Arrowsmith 2010, 11).

Each of these farms would have been surrounded by a field system, formed by a gradual process of subdivision and enclosure, some potentially dating back to the earlier division of the medieval monastic grange lands. The 1314 charter makes specific reference to stone boundary walls constructed across the area but where stone was more difficult to obtain then sod cast banks were used (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996, 34). Vestiges of the old field system are still preserved around Castle Shaw where a series of linear features can be traced running south-east from Drycroft Lane, and along Waters Clough were earthen banks (Figure 6- 5, 11, 1, 13, 15, 16), some set with hedges, are still persevered. These initially appear to be of some antiquity, possibly medieval or early post-medieval in date.

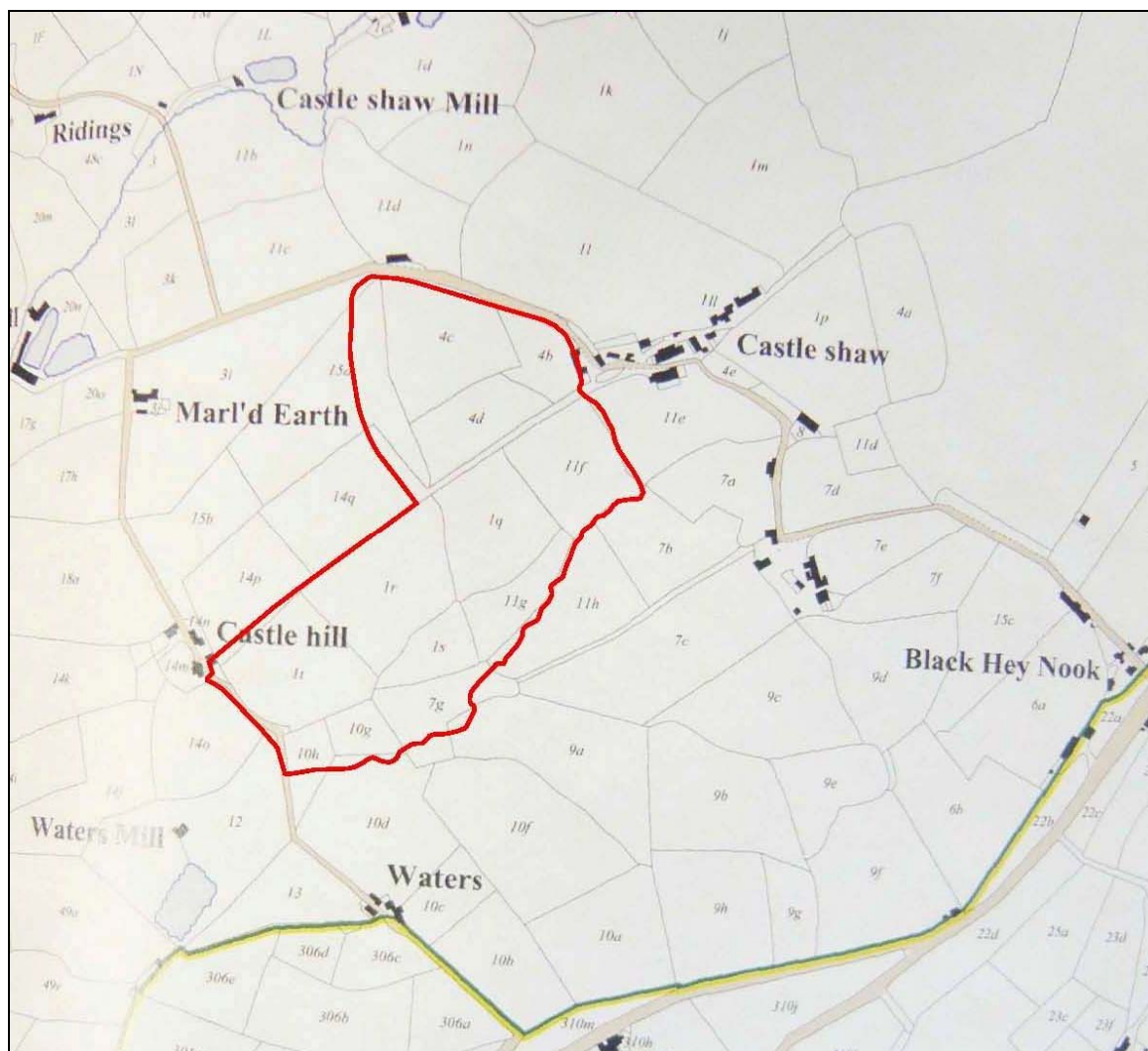
Castleshaw Moor, covering some 600 acres, had been apportioned by agreement and enclosed before, or soon after the 1618 sale. The intake land was divided into fourteenths, each of which were allocated in differing amounts to the various tenants (M. Buckley *pers. comm.*). However, unlike the nearby High Moor, it seems these divisions were not permanently marked out by stone walls but instead remained in use as common grazing.



Figure 15: extract from Henry Teesdale's map (1828) showing Castleshaw and expanding development along 1758 the turnpike.

Jeffrey's map of 1771 is rather too small scale to determine a great deal about the layout of the post-medieval settlement but it does clearly show Higher Castleshaw Farm, Lower Castleshaw Farm (HER 10290.1.0) and a scatter of other buildings including Waters Farm, Castle Hill Cote and the building listed as 'Harbour' on later maps. The fort is not shown on Jeffrey's map and was only discovered a few years earlier by Percival in 1751. Later small scale maps by Greenwood in 1818 and Teesdale in 1828, show slightly more detail of the area, particularly of the road layout. The main road crossing diagonally south-east of the area was the Wakefield to Austerlands turnpike built soon after 1758 (shown crossing the south-east corners of the map extracts). This was part of a network of new

turnpike roads built in the 18th century to meet the increasing demands of commerce, as textile manufacture increased and the trans-Pennine trade route again became of paramount importance; just over sixteen hundred years after the construction of the Roman road.



buildings survive. The hamlet appears to have grown up around the point where three roads met - Dirty Lane, Bleak Hey Lane, the township map clearly showing clutches of houses arranged along the road junction.

By this stage, both Higher and Lower Castle Shaw were referred to as one settlement. Higher Castle Shaw is shown as comprising the main farmhouse, which remains extant today (although in poor repair), and a long north-west to south-east range (now demolished) as well as various ancillary buildings. Many of these buildings are referred to as barns in the documentary sources, indicating that crop storage and threshing, all processes associated with arable, may have remained important throughout the post-medieval period; although, these could also have been used for storing imported hay as well as root crops for animal fodder (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996, 34).

There is evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation within the vicinity of the site visible on modern aerial photographs, in some areas this could be medieval broad rigg, with some furrows measuring 3m across at Broadhead⁶ and Wood Farm (*ibid*, 35). Arguably, very faint traces of ridge and furrow can also be seen running across Daycroft Field and around Higher Castle Shaw, but it is unclear if this is medieval or post medieval. To the south-west of Higher Castle Shaw Farm, the 1822 map shows a green lane which terminates before reaching Castle Cote Lane; later maps show a footbridge in this location (9) crossing Waters Clough. The green lane runs parallel to Drycroft Lane and may have originally been a back lane providing access for the plough teams out onto the fields on both sides. Later, the track would have provided a short cut to Water Gate mill for workers coming from Higher Castle Shaw and Bleak Hey Nook.

Despite such evidence of arable cultivation the topography, soils and severe climate of the area would have always made cereal production difficult and unreliable. Instead, the mainstay of agricultural production was pastoral, with some cultivation of fodder and vegetables on the floor and level terraces of the valley (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996, 37). Many of the field names in the area, transcribed from property deeds, feature the term 'meadow' and it appears that this was the predominant use of enclosed land certainly by the 18th century (Redhead 2003, 71). Meadows were areas where grass was grown and subsequently mown for hay and then stock moved back to graze until the next spring. This ancient management practice is still continued by the tenant farmer at Castleshaw today. Cattle were kept for meat and dairy as well as for the production of valuable manure, essential in ensuring the fertilisation of any arable on such marginal land. In addition, sheep were grazed on the moorland and lowland pastures and were central to the regions woollen industry.

The vestry map shows a cluster of buildings associated with Castle Shaw Farm in the early 19th century but of particular interest is the large elongated u-shaped range which runs north-west to

⁶ The name of the farm itself may indicate the antiquity of the ridge and furrow possibly referring to the ploughing headland.

south-east at the western end of the settlement. This is later shown as two buildings on the 25-inch First Edition OS map (1892-4) and has disappeared completely by the early 20th century. It was located at the eastern end of the scheduled area and evidence of the structure still survives in the form of a grassed over building platform with some exposed footings (20). Pieces of coping and buildings stone in the vicinity may also be associated with this.

Running between Castle Hill Cote (shown as Castle Hill on the 1822 map) and Castle Shaw is 'Dry Croft Lane' (1, 2). This is a medieval green lane or hollow way which cuts through the southern fosse of the fort and later fortlet. Today, Drycroft Lane remains a very distinct feature on the landscape, standing nearly a metre deep in some places and over 2m wide. The route is much more pronounced at the north-eastern end (2) where it runs adjacent to the fort and in 1908 Bruton noted that it was *'little better than a stream bed. It affords curious example of the ancient water rights of the district. When the mills were running in the valley below, the owner of one of then could insist on a stream being turned down this lane for a certain number of months a year'* (Arrowsmith et al citing Bruton 2006, 19)



Plates 9 & 10: two sets of surviving gateposts, the first (27) close to the site entrance, and the second (23) on the eastern rampart; both are remnants of the former post-medieval field system.

Industry

The difficulty of sustaining agricultural production in such a marginal landscape meant that for many farmers and small holders, textile production was essential to sustaining a living. At least since the medieval period, and probably before, wool manufacture and weaving has been an important part of the local economy. Initially, production was undertaken on a small scale; farming families supplementing their income by spinning wool and weaving cloth in the evening or during the slacker periods of the agricultural year. Documentary evidence details the practice of this form of independent production across the area in the 18th century and physical evidence is manifest in the numbers of characteristic farmer-weaver cottages which are still a common site scattered across the hill slopes and in the villages. These are two-storey cottages with a distinctive multi-light window on the upper floor to optimize the light necessary for weaving. One of these previously stood at Castle

Shaw but is no longer extant although photographic evidence still survives (Arrowsmith 2010, 14). Similar properties can still be seen today at Bleak Hey Nook.

By the 18th century textile production was divided across the Pennines between the woollen manufacture areas of the east and the emergent cotton trade rapidly gaining precedence in the west. The landscape of Saddleworth made it ideal for woollen manufacture, the predominance of grazing land for sheep providing the raw materials, while the fast flowing streams which cut through the valley sides produce the power necessary to drive the mechanised mills (Arrowsmith *et al* 2006). The Saddleworth parish registers clearly illustrate the increasing significance of the woollen industry to the local economy throughout the 18th century. In 1720, over 75% of fathers listed in baptism entries were employed in the textile industry, a figure which rose to nearly 90% in the 1770s and 1780s (Arrowsmith 2010, 14).

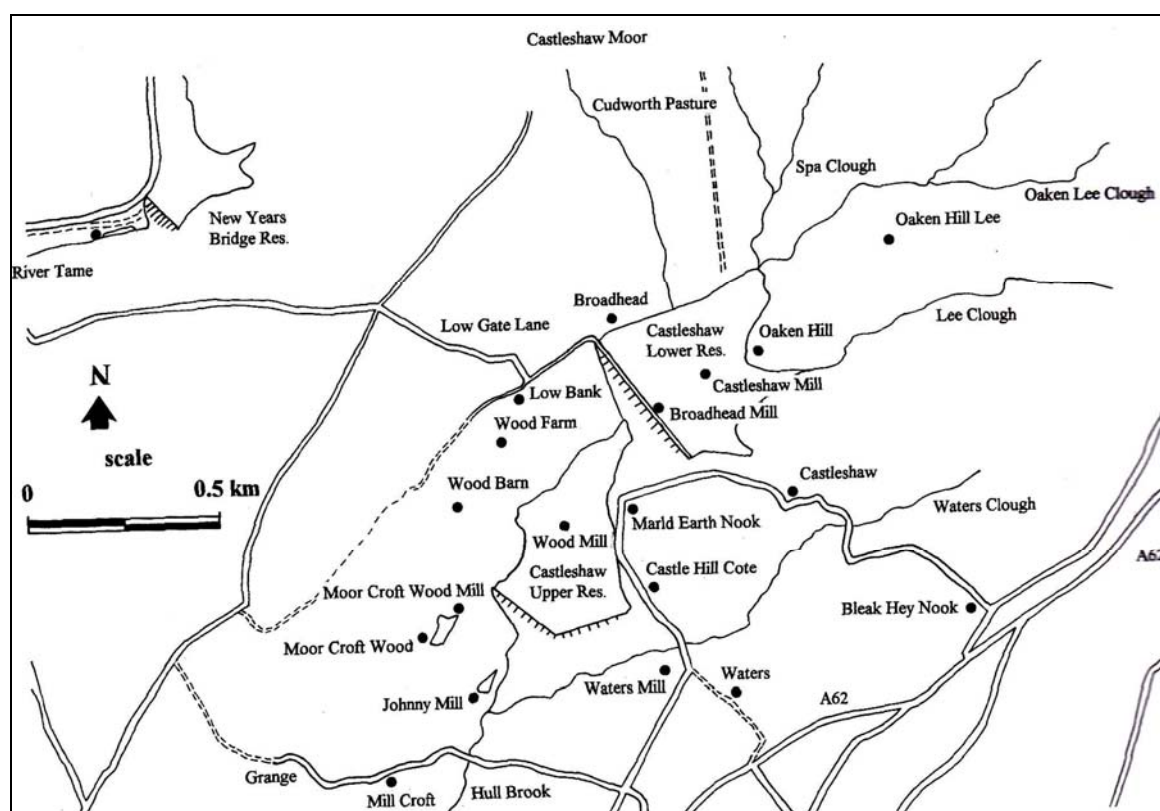


Figure 17: key post-medieval sites in the area, including mills and farmstead (Redhead 2003, 70) © GMAU

These men were largely listed as 'clothiers', a term which was generally applied to small independent family run units, with mechanised mill production not really taking hold until the later 18th and early 19th century (Arrowsmith *et al* 1996, 37). However, although most manufacturing processes were undertaken in the home, cloth was sent to local fulling mills for finishing. During this process fullers earth was added to water and the woven cloth pounded by fulling stocks in order to remove oil, size and other impurities and produce a dense, felt-like, finished cloth which could then be sold at the cloth hall in Huddersfield, Bradford or Leeds. In the early 18th century only two cloth

finishers are listed in the area, but by 1787-91 as many as 21 are recorded (ibid, 38). By the late 18th century a second type of mill was introduced; the scribbling mill. Within the scribbling mill the preparatory processes of manufacture were carried out: sorting and grading the raw wool; washing and drying and then mechanised carding. The loose cardings were then drawn out by a 'slubber' before being wound onto bobbins ready for the spinners.

In the Castleshaw valley there were six mills in operation by 1800. Two were fulling mills: Wood Mill and Moorcroft (Johnny) Mill. The first was owned and occupied in 1790 by Joseph Milns (a clothier) from Wood Farm, and the second was built in 1786 by John Kenworthy of Castleshaw (clothier) in partnership with James Rhodes of Castlehill (clothier) and Abraham Gartside of Water Cote (clothier). There were also four scribbling mills: Castleshaw (Higher Broadhead) Mill, built in 1758 Benjamin Wrigley of Broadhead (yeoman); Broadhead Mill, occupied in 1785 by Benjamin Wrigley and his son James; Waters Mill occupied in 1794 by John Nield, and Moorcroft Wood Mill, in 1795 leased by Benjamin Taylor of Ogden (yeoman) and Henry Whitehead of Moorcroft Wood (clothier), to James and Thomas Millns of Wood, clothiers (Redhead 2001, 75). Today, none of these mills remain extant. Wood Mill, Broadhead Mill and Castleshaw Mill all lay beneath Castleshaw Lower and Upper Reservoirs but some archeological evidence of the other structures can be found including mill ponds, leats and building platforms. The remains of Waters Mill lay just to the south-west of the scheduled area (SMR 10272.1.0). This was powered by water coming down Waters Clough and controlled by a weir (4) at the south-eastern edge of the project area.

The First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map (OS), published in 1854 provides a detailed picture of the mills in operation in the mid-19th century, although many were to fall into decline soon afterwards as the demand for cotton increased to the detriment of woollen manufacture. All along the valley bottom new settlements and communities had sprung up to support the expanding textile industry and new municipal buildings were constructed to meet the demands of the increasing population.

The only industrial activity operating in the area in the post-medieval period is stone quarrying, with a number of quarries shown on the six-inch OS map. It is likely that quarrying had been carried out for local use at least since the 17th century when many of the farms in the region were built. There is no evidence of coal extraction in the area except for some possible bell pits on the south-eastern side of Ox Hey Top.

The 1854 OS marks the first appearance of the Roman forts on a national map. Both the fort and the fortlet are shown but the eastern rampart is not shown. At this time the fort was known as Castle Hill and does not appear as Castleshaw until relatively recently (post 1970). By mid 19th century, some of the field walls crossing the site had been removed and the building at the eastern extent of the

scheduled area (20) had been rebuilt. However, much of the area remained the same, including the majority of the field divisions.

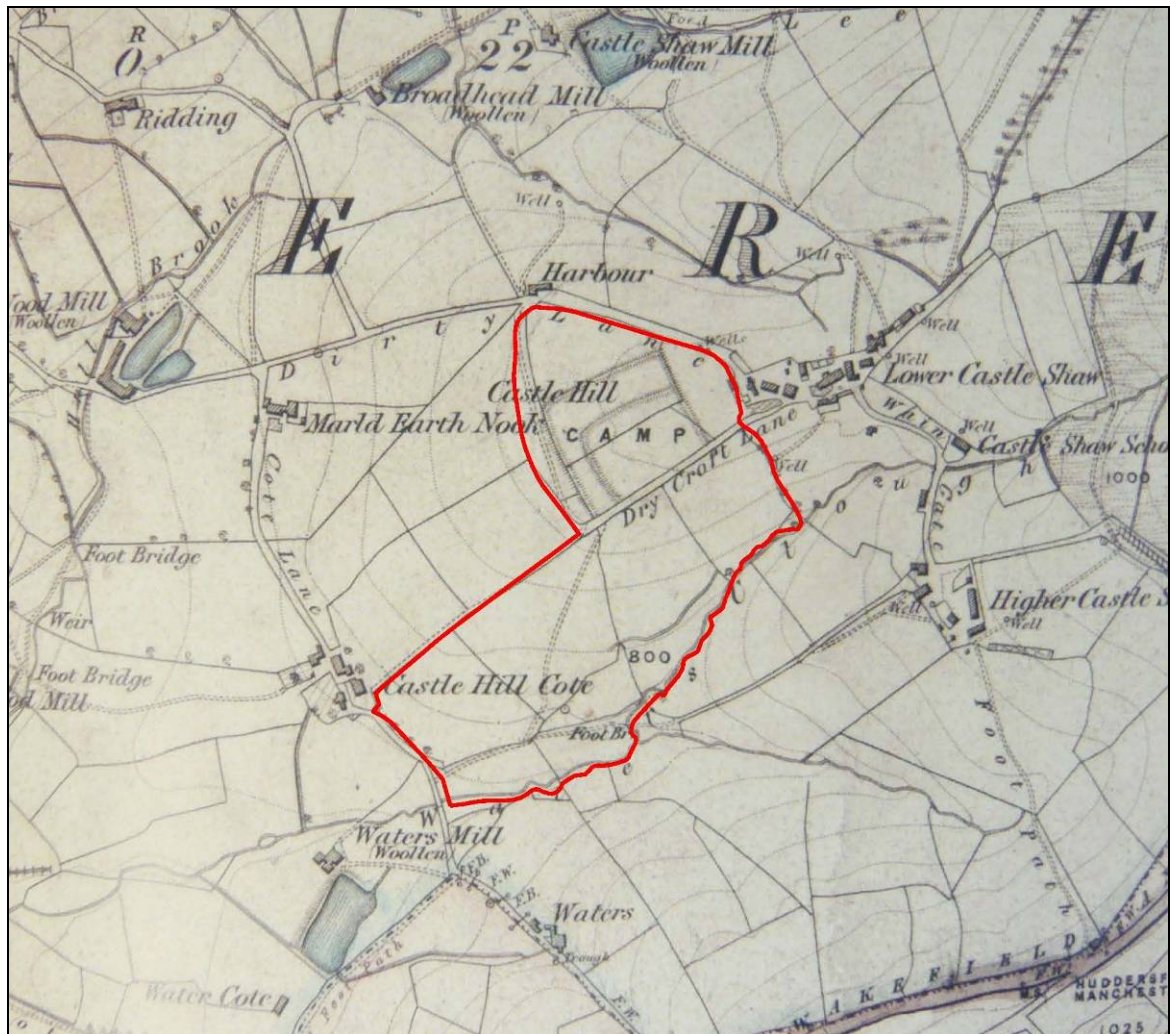


Figure 18: extract from the First Edition six-inch to one mile Ordnance Survey map (1854)

Possibly the greatest impact on the Castleshaw landscape in recent history has been the construction of the Castleshaw reservoirs built between 1887 and 1891. Only the Castleshaw Lower Reservoir is shown on the Second Edition 25-inch OS map published in 1892-4 but survey slightly earlier. Both were constructed in order to meet the growing demands of the expanding urban industrial centres and formed part of a wave of development which was to transform the face of the English countryside. The land for the reservoirs was compulsory purchased by Oldham Water Corporation in advance of their construction and the inhabitants of farms and cottages re-housed (Redhead 2003, 69). Their construction obliterated a large part of the valley, including Wood Mill, Broadhead Mill and Castle Shaw Mill, and had a considerable impact on the aspect of the forts.

Waters Mill remained standing but by 1880 production had ceased and the building was being used as a refreshment room (Arrowsmith 2010 citing Barnes), possibly for those coming to view the

marvels of the reservoir construction and to take in a visit to the Roman fort, made popular by Ammon Wrigley's prose.



Figure 19: extract from the First Edition 25-inch to one mile Ordnance Survey map (1892-4)

The plan of the fort shown on the 1892-4 map is slightly different from that on the earlier First Edition six-inch OS map (1854). Surprisingly, given the greater detail of the 25 inch map, the fortlet is not shown, although the wall line running east to west across the monument was still *in-situ* and was not fully removed until after Bruton's excavations began in 1907; it does not appear on the later Third Edition OS published in the same year. Other changes of note by the end of the 19th century include the rationalisation of the earlier field systems. This almost certainly reflects the introduction of new mechanised farming methods. To the south of the fort, the networks of smaller rectangular field divisions have been removed and a single large field – Daycroft Field – created, although

vestiges of some of the older boundaries are still shown including an old tree line.

'It is by nature a wild and bleak region, but industry has accumulated in it a vast number of inhabitants, (and now in a high state of cultivation, and conveniently intersected by good turnpike roads) who gain comfortable subsistence by the manufacturing of woollen cloth, for which the place is peculiarly famous; many of the superior broads manufactured here being equal, if not superior, to those of the West of England'

Pigot's National Commercial Directory for 1818

Castle Shaw at this time was quite a large rural hamlet comprising around twenty properties. Many of those living in the settlement were engaged in textile production, Pigot's 'Professions and Trades' directory of 1834 listing eight cloth manufacturers, two of which – Ben Wrigley and William Kenworthy – were also merchants. Castle Shaw School (SMR 10291.1.0) was built c. 1817 although an early building is shown in the same location on Jeffrey's map of 1771. The school was originally constructed to accommodate 92 pupils but was forced to close just a century later. The decline of the woollen industry was largely responsible for the gradual decline of the community over the next hundred years as more families were forced to move away in search of work. By the publication of the Fourth Edition six-inch OS map in 1948, only Castleshaw Farm and Castleshaw House remained at Lower Castle Shaw, two wars and the economic depression all finally taking their toll on the dwindling community.

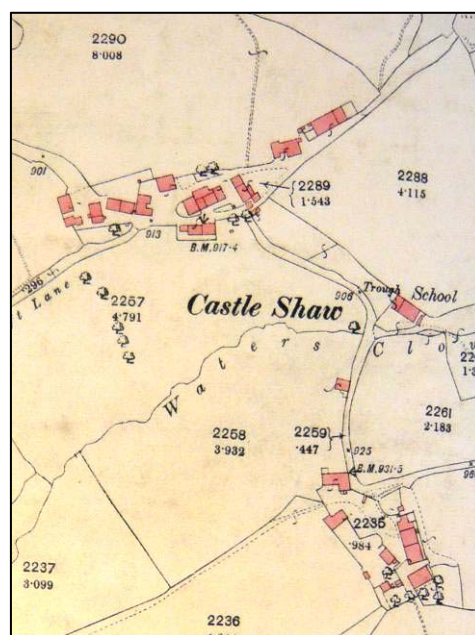


Figure 20: extract from first edition 25 inch OS map showing Lower and Higher Castleshaw in 1892-4

Gaps in Our Understanding of the post medieval period

Understanding the medieval/post medieval field system

A mixed farming economy operated across Castleshaw in the 18th century, with some arable production on the valley floor, pasture on the upper slopes, and some summer grazing across parts of the upland. However, it remains unclear how this pattern may have altered over time, potentially influenced by changes in demand, fluctuations in climate and advances in agricultural practice. A closer look at the surviving physical evidence of the various boundaries still extant across the scheduled area might provide a better understanding of the existing documentary material. In particular, recording and targeted excavation might help establish when they were constructed and confirm whether these are medieval or post medieval in date. In addition, further palaeo-

environmental work might shed light on the nature of the agricultural economy. This in turn could have a considerable impact on our understanding of the nature and development of the area.

A social history of Castle Shaw: A considerable amount of work has been done by the Saddleworth Historical Society and others on the history of the Castleshaw Valley, and this has included work on Higher Castle Shaw and Castleshaw Fold but there is scope to bring this together and explore the development of the settlement in terms of the lives of those who lived there. In particular, it would be interesting to map the decline of the settlement in the late 19th and early 20th century. There are also gaps in the more recent record, including how Castle Shaw was impacted by the war.

Understanding the impact of the excavations: excavations have been conducted at the Castleshaw Roman forts since the early 20th century and a number of local residents would have been involved in these on either a casual or professional basis. The direct impacts of these excavations are still visible across the monument but the historical significance for those involved with the site, and the wider community, still remains to be explored and would provide an interesting aspect of local social and community history.

2.5 THE COLLECTIONS

There are a number of collections associated with the site comprising both finds assemblages and documentary archives (both primary and secondary). The finds and archive are currently split across the region at four separate locations – The Manchester Museum, Gallery Oldham, Saddleworth Museum and Tolston Museum.

Finds Collections

The vast majority of Castleshaw finds are held at the Manchester Museum and are catalogued on a digital database which includes photographs and drawings where present. Most of the finds are from Bruton's excavations in 1907-08 and include a considerable range of material, but the collection also includes artefacts from the later 1957-64 Manchester University seasons. Unfortunately, it is not easy to distinguish between the finds from each project except that the Bruton material has an earlier acquisition number. The Oldham Museum (now Gallery Oldham) houses a collection of finds from the more modern GMAU excavations (1984-88), while the Daycroft Field evaluation material is deposited at Saddleworth Museum.

Primary Archive

Primary archive material – photographs, plans, field books and record sheets – from the various excavations are rather more poorly represented. This is not uncommon for early excavations but it does mean that the re-interpretation of recovered material is often virtually impossible as details of deposits and the specific location of finds is poor. Even where evidence does exist, as in the beautifully illustrated 1908-7 finds book, details of provenance are vague and field notes frequently rudimentary. Despite this, the various Castleshaw archives do include some important primary material, including the Bruton finds book and a collection of photographic plates from the same excavation taken by W. H. Sykes, both of which are at Manchester University. Often there is a tendency to overlook the paper-based archive material in favour of more tangible finds collections, although both are essential to our understanding of the monument. None of the museums holding material have a record of the paper-based archives and none were immediately able to locate them, although this is not to imply that the archive is necessarily missing.

Outside of the museum collections, Ken Booth has built up an important collection of research notes and secondary documentary material. Of particular importance in this collection are copies of some of the primary excavation archive material mentioned above. The GMAU also has an important archive collection including published and unpublished material (detailed in Appendix 5), aerial photographs, oblique aerial photographs and digital images. There is also a considerable amount of information on Castleshaw, and related sites in the area, recorded as part of the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).

Publications

The site does have a relatively good publication record, although many of the earlier reports are quite brief and contain very little detailed finds analysis. Nevertheless, the degree of reporting is much more impressive than found at a number of other early excavation sites. The more modern reports from the recent excavations at the fortlet and Daycroft Field excavation are much more in depth and include detailed description of *in-situ* deposits, post-excavation analysis on a range of materials and discussions on interpretation and comparative significance (Redhead et al 1989; Redhead 1996b & 1997). Ken Booth outlines a publication (and finds) assessment in his book 'Roman Saddleworth' (Booth 2001, 66-98) but the table below summarises the main excavation references only but see the bibliography for further references.

Table 2: Excavation Reports

Excavations	Author	Date	Publication
None	Percival, T	1751-2	'Observations on the Roman Colonies and Stations in Cheshire and Lancashire,' in <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</i> 47 , 216–30
None	Watson, Rev, J.	1766	'Some Account of a Roman Station Lately Discovered on the Borders Of Yorkshire' in <i>Archaeologia</i> 1
Wrigley	Andrews, S	1898	'The Roman Camp at Castleshaw and the Antiquities of the Saddleworth District' in <i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> 16 , 83–100
Buckley	Buckley G. F	1898	'Explorations at Castleshaw' in <i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> 16
Wrigley/ Buckley	Andrew, S	1907	'Recent Finds at Castleshaw' <i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> 25 , 83–100
Bruton	Bruton, F.A	1908	<i>Excavation of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw</i> . First Interim Report. Manchester
Bruton	Bruton, F. A.	1911	<i>Excavation of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw</i> . Second Interim Report. Manchester
Wrigley	Wrigley, A	1912	<i>Songs of a Moorland Parish with Prose Sketches</i>
Bruton	Richmond, I.A	1925	'The Sequence and Purpose of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw' 'Recent Finds at Castleshaw' in <i>Transactions of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> , 40 , 154-162
Manchester University	Rosser, C E P	1958	'Interim report on Excavations at Castleshaw,' in <i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> 67 , 118–19
Manchester University	Thompson, F.H.	1965	'The Roman Fort at Castleshaw, Yorkshire' in <i>The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> 41 , 329
Manchester University	Thompson, F.H.	1974	'The Roman Forts at Castleshaw, Yorkshire, Excavations 1957-64' in <i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i> 77 , 1–13

GMAU Fortlet	Start D et al	1986-88	'Excavation and Conservation of Castleshaw Roman Forts 1985-6' in <i>Greater Manchester Archaeological Journal</i> 2 , 41-63
GMAU Fortlet	Start D et al	1989	'Excavation and Conservation at Castleshaw Roman Forts' in <i>Greater Manchester Archaeological Journal</i> 3 , 45-55
GMAU Fortlet	Walker, J et al	1989	<i>Castleshaw: The Archaeology of a Roman Fortlet Greater Manchester GMAU Monograph</i>
Daycroft Vicus	Redhead, N	1996	<i>Daycroft Field, Castleshaw: an evaluation of extra-mural activity south of the Roman fort complex: final report/Report No 1996/1.</i>
Daycroft Vicus	Redhead, N	1996	'Daycroft Field, Castleshaw' in <i>Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin</i> 26 .
Daycroft Vicus	Redhead, N	1997	<i>Castleshaw Evaluation Stage 2: further investigations of extra-mural activity at an upland Roman military site</i> unpublished GMAU Report No 1997/2
Daycroft Vicus	Redhead, N	1997	'Castleshaw Evaluation Stage 2; Further Investigations of Extra-Mural Activity at an Upland Roman Military Site' in <i>Saddleworth Historical Bulletin</i> 27 .

Public Access

There is limited public access to the collections. Saddleworth Museum has a small number of finds on long-term loan from Manchester Museum, displayed in a small exhibition specifically dedicated to the site. Housed on the first floor, this comprises a single vertical and horizontal glass case featuring display objects with accompanying interpretation notes on the nature and layout of the fort and fortlet. It also includes an excellent model of the fortlet built by Ken Booth. However, all those involved with the exhibition accept that this display, although first rate when it was first put together, is now rather tired looking and needs updating. Some objects from the site are included in temporary thematic exhibitions as part of the Gallery Oldham programme and next year (2012) a collection of pieces from Castleshaw will form part of the new 'Ancient World' gallery at Manchester Museum. A series of exhibition panels produced by GMAU entitled 'Piethorne and Castleshaw from the Air' are also on permanent display at the Castleshaw Centre.



Plates 11 & 12: Castleshaw exhibition at Saddleworth Museum

Gaps in Our Understanding of the Collections

Missing material – elements of both primary archive and finds cannot be located and are believed lost. Most notably this includes all the material from the early Manchester University excavations (1957-64), C.E.P. Rosser tragically committing suicide during the duration of the project. Other missing elements include the finds from the Buckley excavation and potentially the photographs from Bruton (1907-08). This material may never be found but an increase in public awareness could have surprising results.

Understanding more about the condition of the finds - while a preliminary assessment of the collections has been undertaken as part of the production of the plan, a more thorough review of material is necessary to achieve a more detailed understanding of the range of material as well as conservation and storage requirements. This type of assessment would be necessary in advance of any changes to the collections policy in order to ensure that adequate funds were secured to properly deal with potential issues.

Understanding more about the significance of the finds - a considerable amount of new information, including dating evidence, could also potentially arise from a modern re-assessment of material from the earlier excavations by finds specialists in each field.

Understanding nature and potential of digital archive - it may prove possible to re-assess some of the earlier digital survey data from the GMAU projects using advances in interpretation software to potentially provide more information. A further assessment of the digital archive, a suitable provision for its curation and updating may be an avenue for further investigation in the future.

The following table is a summary of the various finds collections and archives held according to repository. A more detailed preliminary assessment is included in Appendix 5 as well as more detailed listings of the various archives held outside the museums.

Table 3: Summary of Castleshaw Collections

Repository	Collection	Finds	Paper Archive	Catalogued	Accessibility
Manchester Museum	Manchester University Excavations 1957-64	Huge range of Roman finds including pottery, coins, iron objects, mortaria, brick and glass. Also includes important Bronze Age material.	Thompson's excavations (see issues).	Details of all finds recorded and entered onto a digital database. Details include some photographs and drawings	Moderate. Some finds destined to be on permanent display as part of 'Ancient Worlds' gallery, opening in 2012. Other objects sent on loan for temporary exhibition as requested. No public access to records except by request.
	Bruton Excavations 1907-1908	Range of finds including pottery, tile, mortaria, Amphorae, Stone, Bronze, lead, glass, leather, bone, iron and wood	Original illustrated finds book	As above	As above
Gallery Oldham (formerly Oldham Museum)	GMAU excavations 1984-88	Finds from seasons of excavations on the fortlet including glass, pottery, iron, lead and tile as well as a small Intaglio and gaming counters. Collection also includes Mesolithic and Neolithic flint assemblage.	Paper plans from the excavation.	Finds recorded on record cards but in the process of being digitized. No catalogue of primary archive.	Moderate to poor. Some finds are placed in temporary displays but nothing permanent. No public access to records except by request.
	Wrigley Collection	Small collection of pottery and finds from Wrigley's investigations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Includes incomplete cohort stamped tile.	None. Apparently some photographs taken by Wrigley did formerly form part of the collection but these were removed in 1990 and are believed to have been transferred to the Oldham archives.	As above	As above
Saddleworth Museum	General material	Selection of finds on long term loan from Manchester Museum	No primary material but a good general archive of secondary material including	Material from the museum in the process of being digitally catalogued	Good. Museum is easily accessible from the site. The displays are now a little dated and

Repository	Collection	Finds	Paper Archive	Catalogued	Accessibility
			journal articles.		are in need of re-design (as acknowledged by all those involved) but the exhibition is thoughtful and the site model helps considerably with interpretation.
	GMAU Castleshaw Excavations Archive: inc. Daycroft Field 1995-96 Castleshaw Medieval Iron Furnaces 1992-4 Excavations above Piethorne Reservoir 1999-2000	Collection of finds including material from <i>vicus</i> excavations including pottery, metal artefacts and slag	Primary archive material including context sheets and photographs	List of material but no detailed catalogue.	Moderate. Collection is publically available by appointment but not on display.
Tolson Museum, Huddersfield	No specific collection	2 coins found by Wrigley.	Photographic plates from Bruton's excavations	Unknown	Unknown
	GMAU archive material	None	Paper archive of research material including published and unpublished reports, aerial photographs, photographs, press cuttings etc.	List of material produced during CMP but not catalogued.	As above
	Historic Environment Record (HER)	None	Database of all heritage assets and references in the area	HER GIS	Available through the GMAU
Ken Booth Personal Collection	Ken Booth Collection	None	This is a paper archive of research material and notes compiled by Ken during his work in the area. It also includes a selection of photographs and slides	List of material but no detailed catalogue.	Poor. The collection is not publically available although the provisions can be made to view the material for research.

2.6 THE ECOLOGY OF THE SITE

Site Context

The local geology has a significant influence on the ecology of the area. The Pennine hills are formed from acidic grit stone with overlying moorland supporting varying depths of peat bog. The valley sides and bottoms are similarly acidic in character, but support clays and silt which give ecological communities a circum neutral acidic flora. The valley slopes often support springlines, issues and flushes adding diversity to the vegetative communities by the formation of wet flush (i.e marsh like) communities.

The plan shows that the site is within a rich landscape of biodiversity features. The European SAC (Special Area for Conservation) South Pennine Moors lies to the north on the moorland. Areas identified to be of value within the Oldham context have been designated as second tier Local Wildlife Sites known within Greater Manchester as Sites of Biological Importance - SBI. These sites are Hull Brook SBI to the west which includes the river course of Hull Brook and its adjacent marshland habitats and the South Pennine Moors SBI which includes the habitats of the Castleshaw Reservoirs in addition to the upland moorland habitats.

Land management is another significant influencing factor on the local biodiversity. The majority of the valley is in agricultural usage. The Pennine moors are sheep grazed and some areas are managed for grouse shooting. The moorlands and surrounding catchment are an important resource for United Utilities and drainage has been modified to feed Castleshaw Reservoirs and other reservoirs on the Pennine edge. The valley supports a mixture of grazing land – cattle, sheep and horses - along with fodder production both hay and silage. The grasslands variously support improved rye grass leys and semi-improved pasture which are often generally species poor. The slopes above the Castleshaw Reservoir have recently been planted up with trees under the management of United Utilities.

Several habitat community types are supported within the boundary of the study area. An ecological assessment of the small car park situated to the south west of the monument has also been included.

The Roman Forts

The remains of the Roman forts are located on a small relatively flat summit of raised ground and supports rush pasture. The vegetation is very typical of grazed pasture in the region. Soft rush (*Juncus effuses*) is locally abundant to dominant in the sward with grasses making up the majority of the remainder of the species. Grass species include locally abundant Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), wavy hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), mat grass (*Nardus stricta*) and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and occasional rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). The herb diversity is characteristically low and includes typical acid species such as locally frequent heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and sheep's sorrel

(*Rumex acetosella*) along with more ubiquitous species such as common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and occasional broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*).

The steeper banks of the monument support a greater proportion of the finer acidic grasses such as red fescue, wavy hair-grass and matt grass in addition to a higher frequency of the acid herbs, including sheep's sorrel and heath bedstraw. Previously, the outline of the former fortlet buildings were re-seeded with a calcicole flora (species which are lime – calcium - loving) following the 1984-88 excavations as a measure to improve the presentation and interpretation of the site to the public; however, no evidence of this remains within the current vegetation today. Outside of the ramparts to the north of the fortlet but within the footprint of the 1st century fort, the ground is undulating and pitted with the remains of former excavation trenches. In this area the soft rush is considerably more abundant and the lower growing species are locally dominated by the moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, which is a ubiquitous species with a preference for areas of impeded drainage. The internal area of the fortlet is well trampled, which also makes it more preferable grazing for sheep that have access via stock gaps in the surrounding fence. Both the trampling and grazing keep the sward low in this area

This part of the site is of some limited value to birds and breeding meadow pipits are present. The eastern boundary supports some sparse hedgerow vegetation which is supplemented by shrubbery of the adjacent house. This area supports both dunnoek and house sparrow. It is probable that the dense soft rush provides cover for wintering and/or passage species such as snipe. The low sward in the centre of the fort would make it more suitable for ground nesting species of birds. However, it is thought that the steady low numbers of visitors, some with dogs, and the abundance of other suitable nesting sites in the surrounding area, makes this a less favourable site for ground nesting species.

Daycroft Field and Waters Clough

The farm holding is tenanted by United Utilities to David Hirst of Wood Farm, a local farmer, whose family have strong historic links with the area, having worked the land here for a number of years. The farmer manages it under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement, which is due to expire in late 2011.

The field is accessed by the general public by a footpath which enters the field at the bottom of a slope in the south-western corner. Waters Clough forms the southern boundary of this part of the study area. The field slopes up towards the north and east and the footpath enters the monument in the fort's southerly corner.

The field this year appears to have been heavily grazed by sheep and lambs early in the year, with

the grazing removed by mid May. It is understood that the field and those adjacent to it are then 'shut up' to allow a hay crop to be gathered later in the summer. Once the field is shut up the farmer applies a light dressing of manure to fertilise and improve the grass yield. Mr Hirst, the farmer (*pers. com.*) indicated that in most years the sheep are off the field much earlier and often by early-mid April, although this year has been an exception.

The farmer has confirmed that the field has not been reseeded during the time that he has managed the farm, which is over 25 years, although he is uncertain about its management before this time. It is however, concluded that any form of reseeded, even during the war, is unlikely as the field supports a semi-natural grassland which is representative of unimproved hay meadows of the locality. The current farming practices have maintained this species composition by the use of a sympathetic management regime. The field supports a species-rich sward which is both diverse and relatively consistent in its extent across the whole field. Species diversity is greatest on the steeper slopes where nutrient build-up is limited by the soil structure and the naturally good drainage. The species diversity falls off at the foot of the slope and on the flatter higher areas, but is still relatively species rich and unimproved.



Plate 13: the unimproved hay meadow supports a species rich grassland © GMEU

The grass sward is varied with no single species dominant. Although Yorkshire fog and rye grass are both present, they do not dominate in the manner which is indicative of highly managed grassland. Other grasses include locally abundant crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristata*), red fescue, sweet vernal grass, rough stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and occasional cock's-foot. As with the Roman fort there are areas of very thin soils, particularly some mounds/spoil heaps at the foot of the slope where the finer acidic grasses dominate such as wavy hair grass, mat grass and red fescue. The grassland has good species diversity and is indicative of a circum-neutral: acidic sward. Species

include abundant to locally frequent yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), common cat's ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), field woodrush and pignut (*Conopodium majus*). Other species which are well distributed in the grassland include common bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), lady's mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris* agg.), self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and oval sedge (*Carex ovalis*) with heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) occurring very occasionally. White clover (*Trifolium repens*) is particularly abundant on the tops of the slopes. The field was recorded as not well used by breeding birds although skylark was recorded over this and adjacent fields. However, the evening bird survey recorded significant feeding by curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher and large numbers of Canada geese. Mr Hirst, the farmer (*pers. com.*) indicated that the spring of this year (2011) had been very dry and that stock had to be fed for longer and stay on the field until much later than usual (early May). He said that in usual years both skylark and lapwing (both UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species) may be found to nest in low numbers. It could be conjectured that the late spring grazing by sheep this year limited the suitability of the fields for ground nesting species such as lapwing and skylark.



Plate 14: skylark in unimproved grassland – a small number nest in Daycroft Field each year © Steve Young

At the foot of the slope and along the course of Waters Clough, a number of seepage lines/issues and marginal marshlands occur. The sward here is less well grazed and as a consequence is taller in structure. Combined with scattered scrub of both hawthorn and willow species this area has good ecological structural diversity. Species recorded include abundant to locally frequent tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), water horsetail (*Equisetum aquatilis*) and purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Other species recorded include water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), wood horsetail (*Equisetum sylvatica*), marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), bog stitchwort (*Stellaria alsine*), greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and common sedge

(*Carex nigra*). The structural diversity of this part of the site makes it suitable for a range of nesting birds. Of note is at least 2 if not 3 pairs of breeding reed bunting (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species) along this clough and other species include feeding kestrel, meadow pipit, magpie and pheasant. It is highly probable that hare also use this habitat with its longer structure for laying-up. Although this species was not recorded in the study area during the current surveys, it was observed in adjacent fields during survey visits and GMEU holds consistent and regular records of this species over a number of years from the immediate surrounding area. Mr Hirst confirmed that he has seen hare utilising Daycroft Field.

Car Park

The current car park supports a number of planted trees on its north-westerly boundary. This includes species such as various willow species (*Salix sp.*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and whitebeam (*Sorbus aria* agg.). The area also supports a number of bird feeders which appear to be well-maintained and regularly filled. The tree cover and feeding station attract a good variety of the local bird species such as dunnoek, goldfinch, reed bunting and blackbird. It would not be unsurprising if the passerine bird records for this area include a much wider variety of species and at good numbers, especially in the winter months. Although this is an artificially created feature it provides a valuable resource for the local birds and could be interpreted as part of an educational/interpretation strategy.

Gaps in Our Understanding of the Ecology

A more detailed survey of key species/groups: the current survey is not intended to provide a comprehensive record of the site and a number of species/groups have not been covered. It is noted that no invertebrate surveys have been undertaken. However, it is not anticipated that this would represent a significant resource on the site, except potentially in the wetlands associated with the issues and marshlands of Waters Clough.

The potential presence of water vole along Waters Clough:- Waters Clough has not been surveyed for the presence of water vole. Given the good populations found on Hull Brook, it is highly probable that this species is present along the water course in the study area. Again, no survey has been undertaken for white-clawed crayfish although the structure of the stream is not optimum habitat for this species. Any proposals that would impact on the Clough would need to include surveys for these species and mitigation may be required to avoid harming the animals whilst a project is implemented and restoring the habitat post works.

Understanding the extent of the hare population in the area: detailed hare surveys have not been undertaken. This is not required as it would only refine knowledge of population densities and fine detail of habitat usage.

2.7 THE COMMUNITY VALUE OF THE SITE

The Broad Community Context

Castleshaw lies within the Metropolitan District of Oldham which has a population of approximately 217,273 (Office for National Statistics 2011). It forms part of the Saddleworth North Ward (population of 9,376) which comprises a series of key settlements, most of which are spread along the valley bottom, with a scattering of smaller units across upland and valley slopes. The largest local community is Uppermill, with a population of around 7,500, which lies approximately 4 miles south of Castleshaw. The closest settlements are Diggle to the south-west (population 1,500); Delph to the south-west (population 2,000) and Denshaw to the west (population 500), all of which are roughly equidistant to the site. The Castleshaw valley itself has a population of approximately 300, although the actual hamlet Castle Shaw consists of just four properties including Higher Castle Shaw Farm.

There is a relatively even distribution of age groups within the North Ward area, the highest group being those between 30 and 49 who make-up 31% of the population; a figure higher than the national average of 29%. The second largest group are those aged between 50 and 65, who make-up 24% of the population; considerably above the national average of 17%. However, there are fewer children under the age of 16 in Saddleworth North than across the rest of Oldham, with 19% compared to 22% in the rest of the Metropolitan District. The population over the age of 65 is 14%, which compares favourably with the national average of 16%.

The area has the highest economic activity rate (72%) in the district and is considerably higher than the Oldham average of 65%. Those retired (14%) make-up a slightly larger proportion of the population than across the rest of Oldham (13%). In 2001 there were a thriving number of small businesses in the area, totalling 884, although the largest employer remained the manufacturing industries which accounted for 17% of the workforce. This was closely followed by wholesale and retail (16%), then health workers and teachers (both 12%). Just over 4% of people were employed in the hospitality industry, although there was not a specific category for tourism. Today only 1% of those employed are involved in agriculture.

In general, Saddleworth's residents seem fairly happy with their lot, close to nine in ten (87%) stating that they were generally satisfied with their life. This accounted for the highest proportion in Oldham and was way above the district average of 69%. This may in part contribute to a higher life expectancy in valley, although there is a gradual increase in the number of people with health problems. In particular, obesity is a problem with 25% of the population listed as obese compared to the Oldham figure of 23% and the national figure of 24% (Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council 2011). Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, like other authorities in the region, are committed to championing national directives encouraging healthier lifestyles, in particular the role of exercise in

tackling obesity issues, cardiovascular diseases and addressing mental wellbeing. This provides a number of opportunities to incorporate Castleshaw into 'walking for health' schemes and other regional initiatives such as those run by Oldham partnerships (Oldham Partnerships 2011).

" There are very few locations in Oldham that point to a past before the Industrial Revolution. This must be its oldest...Investment in the understanding, protection and interpretation of the site would be more than welcome"

Response to questionnaire – Jeremy Sutcliffe, Oldham

Other regional and national community directives in which Castleshaw based projects might play a significant role include improving access to the countryside for all, encouraging inter-generational activity and improving the involvement of traditionally excluded groups – including members of minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities - as well as a variety of schemes to encourage youth based and family learning experiences.

Leisure and Tourism

Castleshaw lies within the Southern Pennines, a region of considerable natural beauty and diversity which attracts a large number of visitors every year. Investment in tourism in the area has recently been boosted by a 5 million pound fund secured as part of the Pennine Prospects initiative to promote heritage, landscape and community based projects (Pennine Prospects 2011a). This includes the Watershed Landscape project (Pennine Prospects 2011b), a 3 year programme intended to bring about the restoration of landscapes and improve public access. An exciting range of initiatives is already underway related to this work, including the recently released website, which promises to be an important forum for encouraging wide scale community involvement and an opportunity to publicise and bring together those with an interest in Castleshaw. Pennine Prospect also has a dedicated Community Archaeologist - Gavin Edwards – who is one of the members of the Castleshaw Working Party.

There is a wide variety of heritage and leisure opportunities across the Southern Pennines. The landscape offers a great deal of scope for outdoor activities, which are increasing in popularity, including mountain biking, hiking, climbing, horse riding and geo-caching. While many people travel out for the day from urban centres like Manchester, Leeds and Bradford, there is also a widespread increase in the number of people booking longer term holidays and mini breaks. The landscape around Saddleworth offers many opportunities for outdoor activities and is a particular favourite with walkers, cyclist and horse riders. Main routes like the long distance Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and the Standedge Trail, lie in close proximity to the site, not to mention the network of smaller footpaths and bridleways which criss-cross the area.

Heritage attractions in the vicinity include Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery at Uppermill,

Gallery Oldham and the Standedge Tunnel and visitors' centre at Marsden. Further afield are the industrial heritage centres of Huddersfield, Bradford and Manchester. However, there are not really any readily accessible Roman monuments in the area, although there are a clutch of sites which do attract the dedicated archaeological enthusiast. The Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society have recently been digging near the fort at Slack (HDAS 2008) but there is little to see at the site once the excavation teams have left. The nearest sites to Castleshaw where Roman archaeology can be seen *in-situ* by the general public are the reconstructed Roman fort at Manchester (Castlefield), the 1st century legionary fortress preserved in the under-croft at York Minister and, slightly further afield, the bath-house and amphitheatre at Chester. Except for these, the nearest attractions are much further north in County Durham and along Hadrian's Wall, where there are a number of military sites open to the public, including Piercebridge, Binchester, Birdoswald, Housesteads and Vindolanda. Hadrian's Wall attracts nearly 512,000 visitors a year⁷, although it is the concentration and integration of sites along the whole monument which makes the Wall of international significance, a status recognised by its World Heritage Site designation. Castleshaw, in contrast, would never attract anywhere near the same numbers of people - nor perhaps would it want to - but it does, nevertheless, offer considerable scope to create a vibrant, memorable and rewarding visitor experience which remains in keeping with the site's unique sense of place.

Castleshaw and the Local Community

In order to understand more about the role of the site within the local community, a questionnaire was prepared covering various aspects of the site (Appendix 6). This was placed on the Watershed Landscapes (<http://www.watershedlandscape.co.uk/>) and Oldham MDB website (<http://www.oldham.gov.uk/>) and was advertised via various online and traditional media sources, including the local papers. Digital copies were emailed or posted to a number of individuals and interest groups; a full list of those consulted is included in Appendix 1. In addition to the questionnaire, a public open evening was held at the Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill, on the 9th June 2011 as part of Saddleworth History Week. This was attended by approximately 35 people - nearly a full house - who engaged in a lively discussion on plans, hopes and concerns regarding the site. A small number of phone interviews were also conducted with key stakeholders. Overall, the response to the consultation programme was overwhelming, and well above that originally anticipated. This certainly proves the importance Castleshaw holds within the local community and the strength of feeling that the site evokes.

Results of the Questionnaire

In total, 56 general questionnaires were completed and five emails were sent by those who wished to use a less structured form of response. The questionnaires were completed anonymously, although participants were encouraged to enter their details if they wished to receive updates on the

⁷ Based on visitor numbers recorded in 2006 (Hadrians_wall.org 2011)

Project. The majority of people (49) chose to do this and will be contacted as part of the forthcoming review process.



Plate 15: *Norman Redhead and Mike Buckley open proceedings at the opening evening, 9th June 2011*

Understanding the Visitor Profile

The majority of those who took part had visited the site more than once (58%), while just 7% had made a single visit. Regular users – those visiting the site more than once a month – made up 6% of the total, including one of the teachers at the Castleshaw Centre. A further 24% were frequent users, visiting more than once a year. Most (71%) of those visiting the site lived within a 10 miles radius, with only four people (7%) living in the Greater Manchester area and just 2 (4%) coming from elsewhere in the UK (8% were unspecified). There were no visitors from outside the country.

Nature of Party and Mode of Transport to Site

Those visiting the site largely came with one or two friends (41%) or family (29%), although 21% came on their own. Given that most of those visiting were from the local area, it is perhaps unsurprising that there is a roughly even split between those coming to the site by car (53%) and those walking 53%; Delph, Diggle and Denshaw, all being within approximately 2 miles of the site. Five people ventured forth by bike and one by bus.

Age Range

Castleshaw appears to appeal to a range of age groups. The largest group of users (33%), were between 50 and 60 years old, closely followed by those between 40-50 (21%), then those over 60 (15%). The smallest bracket was the younger age groups, those under 20 (8%) and those between the ages of 20-30 (13%) and 30-40 (10%). This could signify that the site does not currently appeal

to younger family groups; 29% of those visiting with relatives being in the slightly older age bracket. However, it also reflects the nature of the local demography as discussed above. The numbers also do not include visits from school parties who were included in a targeted educational questionnaire.

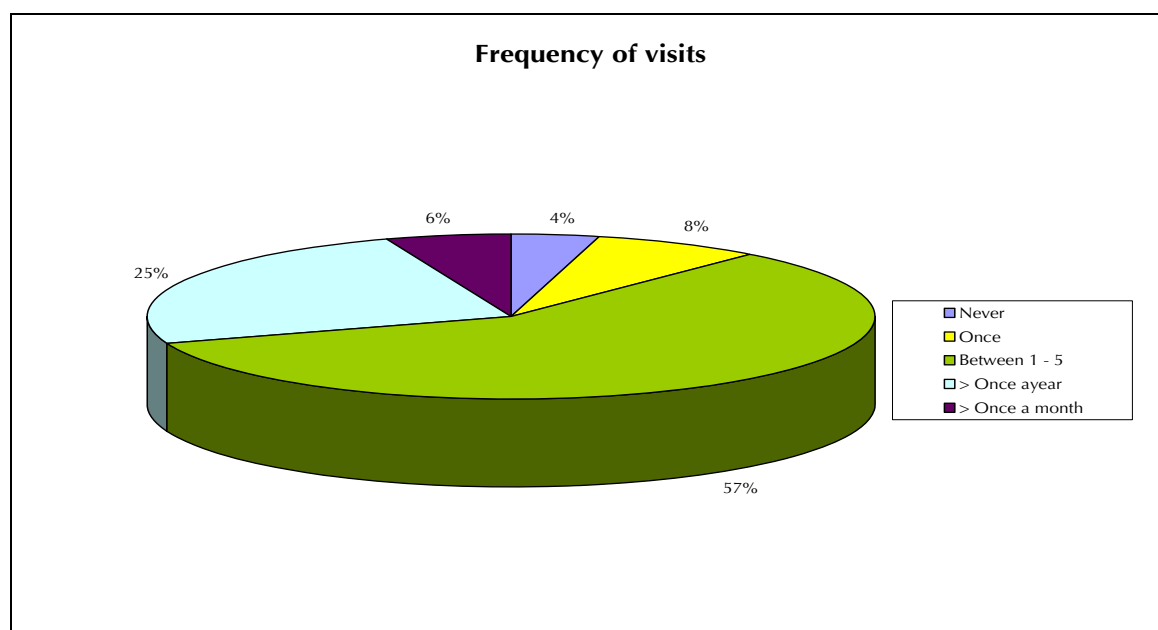


Figure 21: frequency of visits of those completing the questionnaire.

Reasons for Visiting

Most of those (75%), completing the questionnaire said they visited the site for the archaeology, a slightly smaller number were also attracted by the natural environment (71%). 33% of those questioned were drawn by the opportunity for healthy exercise, 8 people (14%), coming to walk the dog. Other interests included horse riding (2%), bird watching (11%), family picnics (5%) and 11% came as part of an organised event like a guided walk. Other reasons for visiting the site included: reliving good memories (from a member of the past excavation team); views down the valley; isolation and tranquillity; good cycling nearby and psychic investigation.

Duration of Stay

The average duration of a visit was between 20 and 30 minutes, which is about the time it takes to walk around the site and read the notice boards. However, a surprising number of people (39%), stayed for over 30 minutes, while 18% stayed less than 10 minutes; these were probably walkers or frequent visitors passing through the site.

Overall, the survey shows that there is widespread general interest in the forts, not just amongst regular users. However, all of those responding to the questionnaire did already have some existing knowledge and interest in the site, as none of those participating ticked the box to say they had never visited. This is a problem inherent in the majority of surveys of this type which, by their nature,

target those with an existing involvement in a site and who have a pro-active interest in any potential change. As such, there is the potential for a bias to creep in which could skew an understanding of the broader community site value. An understanding of the wider local, regional and national community significance of the site, including the potential for attracting new or excluded users, requires a much larger audience assessment, which is beyond the scope of this current project. Nevertheless, the survey does serve to illustrate the issues, concerns and hopes of those who currently enjoy the site.

“ Any improvements that are made to the Castleshaw site should be in recognition of maintaining its special character in terms of its unspoiled peaceful and relatively remote setting”

Response to questionnaire – Mr Norman Hiles, Stockport

What Makes the Site Important?

Those participating were asked to rank a series of possible options according to what they considered to be the most important aspects of the site. Of those who responded to this question (52), 81% ‘strongly agreed’ that the archaeology and history was important to them, with an additional 17% ticking ‘agreed’ (91% in total) and one person who disagreed. Just behind archaeology, 89% of people ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the peace and quiet of the area was important and 86% commented on the significance of the views. The opportunities for healthy walking was important to 77% of people and 70% commented on the natural environment (flora, fauna and geology). The same number also cited the educational importance of the site, but this was the first instance where those who simply ‘agreed’ (39%) outweighed those who strongly agreed (30%). A percentage (7%), also disagreed with the statement; the second highest number of people expressing this opinion. However, the only statement which seemed to widely divide people was the importance of the monument as a family picnic area, with only 34% agreeing with this statement and 23% disagreeing in some manner (9% strongly disagreeing).

Table 4: results from the questionnaire regarding what makes the site important

Q 7: What makes the site important to you?	Agree Strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
The archaeology and history	42	9	1		
The peace and quiet of the surroundings	39	11	2		1
Access to great walks	24	19	1		3
The flora, fauna and geology	18	21	2		3
The great views	34	14	2		
It is a good educational resource	17	22	4		4
It makes a good picnic site	2	17	8	5	6

At the end of this section people were encouraged to add any other aspects which made the site important to them. A number (7%) commented on the unspoilt quality of the site and surrounding area and 5% referred to the broader significance of understanding Roman archaeology within the North West region. One person commented on the importance of the site in terms of accessing the Roman road and the same number on the comprehensive nature of the documented evidence. Finally, one person cited the spiritual quality of the site as important and another the sentimental value it held.

'To feel the 'soul' of the place through the 'soles' of my feet'

Response to 'What makes Castleshaw important to you?' Sue Day, Lancashire

Condition of the Site

A large percentage (48%) of those visiting the site felt it was in a bad condition and difficult to interpret; although it should be noted that there was no distinction made in the wording of the question between the fort and fortlet. Just slightly fewer (42%) felt the condition of the site was good but that interpretation needed to be improved and only 10% felt that both site and information panels were up to scratch.

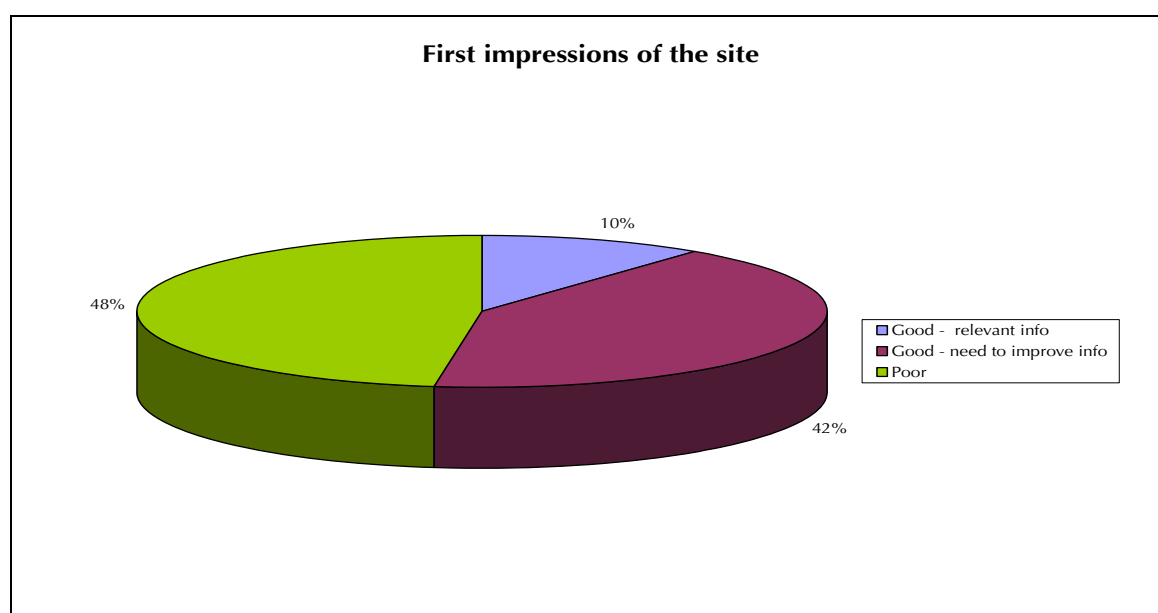


Figure 22: showing first impressions of the site by those completing the questionnaire.

Public Perception of the Issues Facing Castleshaw Forts

The final section of the survey was aimed at establishing what people felt were the main issues threatening the future of the site and how they would like to see the monument managed and improved in the future. Again, a series of options were provided, along with a free text section at the end, for people to add other concerns. As might be expected, there was considerable variation in

replies to this question but two key issues became apparent:

- i) **onsite information and interpretation** - with 71% of those who responded seeing this as a concern
- ii) **the condition of the archaeological remains** - with 70% of people agreeing that this was an issue;

Other factors were more divided. Potential threats to the setting and views both from and to the site were a worry, with 55% of people seeing this as a threat and a large number (16%) who were uncertain about the future. This was closely followed by disabled access, with 45% of those questioned seeing this as an issue. In general, it would seem that most people were happy with the day-to-day management of the site and maintenance issues were not seen as being a primary concern. The greatest perceived threat in terms of maintenance was believed to be from litter or vandalism (36%), followed by parking (30%), road access (20%) and footpath maintenance (18%). Health and safety issues were quite low on the list with just 11% seeing this as a problem and a far greater number (55%) disagreeing with the statement. However, this might be because people feared access might be limited if a safety issue was perceived. Finally, 25% of those questioned were worried that an increase in visitor numbers could threaten the current significance of the monument; although a larger percentage (48%) disagreed with this view. Other threats highlighted in the free text section were: over development, a concern expressed by ten people (18%); intensive farming (4%); threats to wildlife (2%), and too much emphasis being placed on school-based activities.

Table 5: results from the questionnaire regarding public issues and concerns

Q 10) What are the biggest issues regarding enjoyment of the site?	Agree Strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know	No response
Poor road access	3	8	18	12	3	12
Parking	9	8	16	9	3	11
Condition of remains	11	28	6	2	3	6
Poor information	17	23	6	2	2	6
Poor footpaths/routes	2	8	20	8	3	15
Pt. threats to view	17	14	5	3	9	8
H & S issues		6	18	13	6	13
Too many people	9	5	18	9	4	11
Poor disabled access	7	18	3	2	13	13
Vandalism/ litter	12	8	11	6	10	9

All of the above concerns will be discussed further in the Risks and Issues section.

Opportunities for Improvement

Participants were then asked to suggest three potential improvements they would most like to see at Castleshaw. This question brought an interesting array of responses but, as might be expected, these largely reflected those concerns raised in the previous section. The top three areas identified for improvement were:

1) **Improvement to interpretation** - a significant number of people (64%) wanted to see improvements to the onsite notice board (a task already being undertaken). Related to this, 29% of users wanted to see more information on the broader importance of the site in terms of understanding Roman archaeology in the North West and links to other sites both regionally and nationally. Other suggestions in this category included: the provision of an information centre (13%); highlighting specific areas of interest (5%); better publicity (5%); more interactive events and displays (5%) and making documentary material, such as the excavation reports, available onsite (5%).

2) **Improvements to site condition** – 29% of users believed that further excavation and remedial works should be high on the agenda. There were also requests (9%) for improvements to litter bins and picnic facilities, as well as for the provision of dog waste bins.

2) **Access** - was also a common point on many people's list with 40% of people ranking improvements to site access in their top three desired enhancements. A relatively low number wanted better parking facilities (4%) and the need for better sign posts from the main road to the site was also commented on. Other suggestions included more being done to encourage people to visit the site on foot and providing signs outlining local walks and points of interest. However, concern was frequently expressed that the site should continue to retain a low profile in order to protect its peace and sense of isolation.

"In previous years there was a marked sensitivity towards the fragile local ecology, the trend towards 'Theme park' activities and the general perception of Castleshaw Valley as an untapped leisure resource gives considerable cause for concern."

Letter received as part of consultation process from Keith Begley, Delph

Public Consultation Event

The open evening at Saddleworth Museum provided a valuable forum for discussing many of the issues and suggestions echoed in the questionnaires. Most significantly, it provided an opportunity to discuss key points in detail, resulting in some lively discussion with excellent suggestions and recommendations. Again these seemed to focus on the three primary concerns: enhancing site interpretation; consolidating and conserving the archaeology and improvements to both physical and intellectual site access. Key discussion points included:

Improving onsite displays – how to increase the duration of an average site visit by providing better interpretation and activities. These discussions included potentially reconstructing part of the site; the use of multimedia applications to enhance the onsite visitor experience, and creating a ‘sense of theatre’ in terms of events and activities to provide something stimulating and out of the norm.

The provision of a visitors’ centre – the pros and cons of an onsite visitors’ centre were discussed and possible alternatives including the expansion of the exhibition space at Saddleworth Museum or creating a resource centre at the Castleshaw Centre.

Improving offsite interpretation – providing better offsite resources and publicising the forts as an attraction, this included discussions about improving online resources including website, downloadable MP3 guides and even specific phone apps which could then be taken onsite. Other discussions included providing guided walk leaflets, both site specific and more general heritage trails linking together sites in the area.

Conservation of the site – considerable concern was expressed about preserving the peace and quiet of the site and the need to balance improvements in access with preservation of the site’s unique ‘sense of place’. The need to carefully consider the impact of any proposed changes on this sensitive natural environment was a major concern in this area.

Improving access – these discussions included the need to look at improving access for disadvantaged or excluded groups, as well as moving the focus away from schools and towards more targeted groups across a broader spectrum.

Castleshaw as an Education Resource

School’s Questionnaire

Alongside the more general consultation programme, a target questionnaire was sent out to all schools and F.E. Colleges in the Oldham District (Appendix 6). Unfortunately, the response to this was very poor with only two completed questionnaires being returned despite phone calls made to schools within the Saddleworth area. A workshop for teachers was also arranged at the Castleshaw Centre but this event was cancelled due to provisionally poor attendance figures. However, what was apparent from those responses that were received, and from summary telephone conversations with local schools, is that any activities or resources linked with the forts needs to have direct application to curriculum studies. In this regard, readily available teaching resource packs would be greatly appreciated, although the nature of funding would make these less desirable if there was a charge for purchase. There was also a concern that materials and resources should be made available to schools independent of courses run via the Castleshaw Centre

'I think it would be good for young persons to have information on-site showing how long the march to/from other Roman sites in Britain and Europe would take and how soldiers 'on the march' lived'

Response to questionnaire, David Bradbury, Uppermill

The Castleshaw Centre

The Castleshaw Centre is an important educational resource just a few metres away from the scheduled site. It offers a wide range of services to community groups, schools and youth services across the country, serving around 7,000 children each year. Curriculum based residential, and non-residential courses include a range of environmental education activities and outdoor pursuits promoting geography, science, history, maths, and physical education. Many of the courses are aimed at pupils who might not regularly have the opportunity to interact and explore the natural and heritage environment.



Plate 16: *one of the classes run from the Castleshaw Centre about to set off towards the fort.*

The centre provides schools with a variety of themed based modules from which they select the units required as part of a bespoke course. Modules currently on offer which have particular relevance to the forts and surrounding heritage landscape, include a general course on 'The Romans' which incorporates some discussion on archaeological techniques and 'Life at the frontier fort in the Castleshaw Valley'; 'Weavers' cottages to Steam Mills: a journey through time' which looks at industrial heritage; various courses on the Victorians, and environment courses on local land and water habitat, as well as micro-climates, geology and soils. Full details of the courses offered are included in Appendix 6.

Opportunities for partnership with the Castleshaw Centre are quite considerable; working together to improve the educational potential of the site, not only for schools but across all age groups and sections of society.

'I lived in the Colne valley and had no idea that there were any Roman forts in the area. As a child I would have loved to know more about these.'

Comment left on notice board during open evening at Saddleworth Museum

Gaps in Our Understanding of the Community Value of Castleshaw

The public consultation programme has provided a good general picture of how the people of Saddleworth and Oldham would like to see the site develop; however, there remain some gaps in our understanding of the wider community potential of the site. Such a detailed assessment is beyond the remit of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and would instead be considered as part of an Audience Development Plan (ADP). The provision of an ADP might be considered in future, depending on the extent and scope of any adopted proposals.

The potential market: more needs to be done to understand those who currently do not use the site including socially or culturally excluded groups. Such work has the potential to tie-in with national and regional policy on inclusion, improving community health, appreciation of the natural environment and expanding civic pride and cultural awareness. However, any recommendations must harmonise with the needs of existing users.

The educational potential: the courses offered by the Castleshaw Centre illustrates the opportunities for integrating the site into Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 curriculum studies in local history, the natural environment, scientific discovery, geology, industrialisation and technological and economic change. However, there is still a gap in understanding how the site might be enhanced to improve its educational value to local schools outside of the centre. This might include the provision of teaching packs, inactive website and handling collections (See section 4).

Tourism in the area: understanding how Castleshaw might fit into the broader context of heritage based visitor sites locally, regionally and nationally. In particular, what makes the site unique as a heritage attraction and what the broader visitor appeal might be and how this fits in with other sites of interest across the region.

3.0 DEFINING SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 Background

The following section looks at just what it is that contributes to Castleshaw's unique significance based on information gathered in the 'Understanding the site' stage. The national significance of the site is already recognised in its designation as a Scheduled Monument. However, scheduling is based on a broad set of criteria which looks at the comparable importance of sites across England and, while this is essential to ensure the protection of the nation's heritage, it does not really provide the type of specific detail necessary to inform the future management of a monument like Castleshaw.

Each historic site has a unique cultural significance of its own which is derived from a wide range of values and varying perspectives, encompassing not just the physical fabric of a monument but its setting, use, history, ecology, traditions, local distinctiveness and community value (Kerr 2000, 4). The successful management of any site should be based on an awareness of the careful balance of all of these various elements and the ability to foresee and remedy any potential conflicts which may currently exist or arise in the future.

'Anyone who manages such an asset will need to understand all its values because most management problems are the result of competition between different values'

HLF 2005, 11

The following assessment of significance evaluates Castleshaw according to guidance set out in *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2008) and focuses on five high level themes:

- **Evidential Values** - the potential capacity of a site to yield primary evidence about past human activity (period represented, variety and preservation of archaeological material, rarity, extent etc):
- **Historical Values** - the potential of the site to offer a connection between the present and the past through association with people, events and aspects of life:
- **Aesthetic Values** - the potential for people to derive sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place, through design, art, character and setting:
- **Community Values** - the potential for a site to hold meaning for people individually or through a collective experience or memory (often closely related to Historical and Aesthetic Values), and
- **Ecological Values** - a consideration of the importance of the natural environment in terms of diversity, habitat and research potential.

Within these five broad headings various site specific criteria and themes will be explored, although often there is considerable overlap. To help the formation of a prioritised management strategy and Action Plan, each of these criteria have been ranked (Clark 1999, 149; Kerr 2000, 19). However, the intention is not to de-value any aspects of the site and it should not be assumed that elements designated as being of 'some' or 'marginal' significance are expendable, only that they are less significant than other aspects of the site. It should also be stressed that significance has been assessed according to the current situation but that this may alter as new changes are implemented. A review of significance should not, therefore, be seen as static but rather as something which needs to be regularly re-evaluated.

Ranking of Significance

Exceptional: aspects of the site considered as seminal to the evidential, historic, aesthetic or communal value of the site, the alteration or development of which would destroy or significantly compromise the integrity of the site. This category may be determined by the date, rarity, completeness, duration, setting or the representative quality of the element discussed.

Considerable: aspects that help to define the evidential, historic, aesthetic or communal value of the site, without which the character and understanding of place would be diminished but not destroyed.

Some: aspects which may contribute to, or complement, the evidential, historic, aesthetic or communal value of the site but are not intrinsic to it, and in some circumstances may be intrusive, and the removal or alteration of which may have a degree of impact on the understanding and interpretation of the place.

Marginal: those aspects which have only a minor connection with the evidential, historic, aesthetic or communal value of the site and could be considered intrusive, the removal or alteration of which could have a limited affect on the understanding of place.

In some cases, especially in the case of evidential and historic factors, the criteria affecting significance may vary spatially across the site. To clarify this, the individual significance of the key site components has also to be assessed and ranked. However, again it should be stressed that this is intended to allow for informed management and does not mean that Daycroft Field is intrinsically less valuable than the fortlet but just that it is possibly less sensitive to change.

3.2 Overall Site Significance

It is perhaps fair to say that the Roman period, more than any other in our history, has the power to capture the imagination. There are still a large number of sites - roads, forts, towns and villas - clearly visible in the landscape, which stands as testimony to the power and organisation of Rome.

Such sites have fascinated professional and non-professional archaeologists since the foundation of the modern discipline in the early 20th century and before this, fuelled the curiosity of antiquarians like Thomas Percival and Ammon Wrigley. In particular, Roman military archaeology has drawn a great deal of interest and has been the focus of more research than any other aspect of the period (Philpott 2006, 62).

There are currently 468 entries for 'Roman Fort' on the National Monuments Record (NMR); although many of these will be multiple entries for various features (defences, granaries etc.) associated with a single site. A more conservative figure is approximately 180 recognised forts across Britain and around 80 fortlets, excluding those along Hadrian's Wall (Walker 1989, 111–28). This includes both auxiliary and legionary forts. The size, function and rarity of legionary forts like Chester (Deva) and York (Eboracum), ensures their importance in the historical and the archaeological record and has been the topic of much research and investigation. Auxiliary forts like Castleshaw are more numerous but their preservation is often poorer, as most were initially constructed of earth and timber. The majority of those which survive today, like Manchester, are later stone-built manifestations of 1st century timber predecessors. As such, unmodified early forts are quite uncommon, even in the north of the country where military installations are more prevalent. To have one combined with a well-preserved 2nd century fortlet makes Castleshaw very rare and of exceptional significance.

Castleshaw plays an important role in terms of our understanding of the Roman military campaign in the north, particularly if a pre-Agricolan construction date can be confirmed. Combined together with research being undertaken across the North East and West (Brennard 2006; Petts 2006), further study of the fort could have considerable impact on our understanding of the nature of Roman infrastructure under Frontinus and the early development of the trans-Pennine route and supply chain.

Although the southern half of the site is dominated by the later 2nd century fortlet, there is still considerable potential for the survival of well-preserved deposits associated with the Flavian fort outside the footprint of the later site. This represents an important opportunity to study an early timber fort abandoned in the late 1st century, unlike Slack and Manchester, which remained occupied and had a number of later phases of modification. This is of exceptional significance in terms of understanding the archaeology of early fort construction, design and occupation.

The 2nd century Trajanic fortlet is of exceptional significance as one of only a very few such sites which survive in an intelligible form in the country, and which has been investigated, at least in part, using modern excavation methodologies. Like its predecessor, the fortlet is important in forming an understanding of how the Roman military infrastructure changed over the duration of the northern campaigns, particularly in the period just prior to the construction of Hadrian's Wall.

In addition, the importance of the recent identification of the associated civilian settlement (*vicus*) in Daycroft Field cannot be overstated. On its own it is of exceptional significance in terms of understanding more about the nature of a civilian settlement related to a fortlet as opposed to a fort, and could potentially advance our knowledge of how the fortlet functioned and why it was built. It might also provide evidence of the interaction between the Roman army and the local native population and an opportunity to explore issues of supply, procurement and self-sufficiency. With this regard, further palaeo-environmental investigation will be of paramount importance, providing a better understanding of how the fortlet functioned within the broader environment. There is also the opportunity to find out more about the day-to-day operation of the fortlet and the lives of those associated with it. However, such potential could be partially tempered by problems of preservation given the corrosive properties of the acid soils on bone, pottery and other materials, as well as on palaeo-environmental remains.

Outside of the Roman period, Castleshaw is of considerable potential significance as a focus of prehistoric activity, with Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age material all being found on site. Although this evidence is relatively sparse, there is some opportunity to explore the transition between prehistoric periods and the potential for further materials to be found in the future. Castleshaw is one of only a very small number of sites so far identified in the immediate region where this could be possible, although this is probably more a factor related to the difficulties of identifying sites of these periods and the extent of excavation and fieldwork within the area, as opposed to a real concentration of activity in a statistical sense. The identification of the Bronze Age Beaker pottery assemblage in a domestic, rather than funerary context, is, however, of particular importance as it does suggest that there was some form of settlement here at least by this period and therefore has some significance in terms of informing a better understanding of Early Bronze Age settlement distribution across the North West.

In terms of the wider cultural significance of the site, one of the most important factors contributing to its exceptional significance is the long history of archaeological interest and investigation focused on the site. The Castleshaw forts have attracted the attention of the likes of Sir Ian Richmond, later Professor of Roman Archaeology at the University of Oxford, who cut his teeth on establishing the first detailed chronology of the site when still in his early twenties. Other influential names includes F.H. Thompson, General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, who directed the University of Manchester excavations in the 1960s and went on to undertake major excavations at Chester amphitheatre. Other names of note include Ammon Wrigley, the local poet and writer who 'rediscovered' the site in the late 19th century, and Thomas Percival who, when he was not plotting the course of Roman roads, was the author of the first code of medical ethics in 1798.

The long history of excavation at Castleshaw also means that it is of exceptional significance in terms of understanding the development of the discipline of archaeology, particularly field methodology,

over the last century. A glance at the plan of previous excavations plotted by the GMAU (Figure 6) shows the range of excavation techniques employed on the site. The excavations at Castleshaw have also had an important impact on the local community, many of whom have relations who once worked on the site or have their own fond memories of battling the wind and the rain during the GMAU excavations in the 1980s and 1990s.

The considerable community significance of the site is multi-faceted and the level of interest shown during the consultation phase is testimony to the degree of affection in which Castleshaw is held. It is one of the very few sites in the region where there is open access to Roman military archaeology, the nearest others being Manchester, York and Chester. It is also an important stop-off point for ramblers, long distance walkers, day-visitors, mountain bikers and horse riders, as well as a focus for numerous educational activities organised through the Castleshaw Centre.

'The way it links us with 2000 years ago '

Response to: 'Are there any things which make the site important to you?' C. Bourne, Oldham

There is undoubtedly a huge amount of civic pride tied-up in the site and a strong connection with local identity, which goes beyond the historic and archaeological significance and taps into the powerful aesthetic and emotional responses Castleshaw evokes. So many people mentioned the importance of the peaceful isolation of the location and how it still encapsulated the harshness and remoteness of frontier life. The natural environment is obviously a key factor contributing to this appeal and, although not of exceptional significance in ecological terms, the site does support several habitat communities including skylark, lapwing, curlew and reed bunting along with the mammals like water vole and hare.

The challenge now facing the future management of Castleshaw is to enhance and develop the considerable community significance of the site, without jeopardising the isolation and unique 'sense of place' which makes it so special.

Summary of factors contributing to the overall EXCEPTIONAL significance of the site	
Group value - overall importance of Castleshaw as one of the nation's Roman military sites	EXCEPTIONAL
Rare opportunity to study a 1st century fort, 2nd century fortlet, remains of a strategically important Roman road and a <i>vicus</i> , all at one site	EXCEPTIONAL
Potential for the preservation of evidence relating to a 1st century timber fort without later modification	EXCEPTIONAL
Trajanic fortlet is one of only a very few such sites which survives in an intelligible form in the country and which has been investigated using	EXCEPTIONAL

modern excavation methodologies	
Fortlet and associated <i>vicus</i> provide the opportunity to explore the inter-relationship of army and native/civilian community and the day-to-day functioning of the fort.	EXCEPTIONAL
<i>Vicus</i> is also important in advancing a further understanding of the strategic role of fortlets and the specific function of Castleshaw during this period.	EXCEPTIONAL
Exploring the transition between periods and how the landscape changes.	EXCEPTIONAL
The long history of excavation at the site; those involved ; the techniques employed, and the social impact on the local community	EXCEPTIONAL
The site maintains a strong sense of isolation and still evokes something of the nature of life on the frontier.	EXCEPTIONAL
Potential pre-Agricolan date provides greater understanding of the development of Roman military infrastructure.	CONSIDERABLE
Fortlet significant in terms of understanding the nature of military deployment in the period immediately following the formation of the new northern frontier but before the construction of Hadrian's Wall	CONSIDERABLE
The site is very important to the local community and the other users although it currently does not have an extensive appeal outside the county	CONSIDERABLE
The site is an important educational resource	CONSIDERABLE
Importance of the prehistoric archaeology	CONSIDERABLE
The site supports several habitat communities, both flora and fauna	SOME

3.3 Evidential Values

The site is of exceptional significance in terms of the range and nature of the Roman military material so far identified which has advanced our understanding of the period. It includes: evidence of a section of the main trans-Pennine Roman road (Margary 712), connecting the legionary fortresses at York (*Eboracum*) and Chester (*Deva*); an early example of a 1st century AD timber auxiliary fort; a later 2nd century fortlet, which may have acted as a supply base, and an associated 2nd century civilian settlement (*vicus*). The presence of all four elements on the same site provides an extraordinary opportunity to understand more about the development of the Roman infrastructure under Cerialis, Frontinus and Agricola and the changing nature of military installations during the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD. Questions of particular interest revolve around the foundation date of the fort and associated road network; arrangement of the interior and defences, and the nature of subsequent abandonment. Study of the fortlet has raised questions about the nature of military control during the 2nd century Roman occupation; the form and nature of the civilian settlement and the impact of both on the landscape; the process of decommissioning and the potential of any subsequent occupation or later re-use. Many of these themes link in with those raised in both national and regional research agendas.

The Flavian Fort

The 1st century fort follows a standard layout and excavations have established the location of many of the key buildings including the headquarters building (*principia*), the commander's house (*praetorium*), granaries (*horrea*), and barracks (*centuriae*) but evidence of stables and workshops are less apparent, as are aspects associated with the day-to-day running of the fort, like water supply, latrines and waste disposal. However, those buildings that have been identified are of exceptional significance as examples of the development of an early timber fort without later modification.

Based on reports and photographs from the Manchester University and Bruton excavations, preservation of the fort in those areas outside the fortlet footprint seem relatively good and there seems to be little plough damage or evidence of later intervention; although the survival of material evidence is more problematic. The construction of the fortlet has disturbed 1st century deposits on the southern side of the fort, although the GMAU excavations found very little evidence of building re-use. The wider impact of the fortlet on earlier deposits outside its immediate footprint still remains to be assessed. However, the main threat to the integrity of the archaeological evidence in the past has been from the extensive amount of excavation undertaken in the last century or so, although 65% of the main site (including the fortlet), still remains un-investigated and is of considerable potential in terms of further research. There are a number of gaps in our understanding of the development and use of the fort and a wide range of research themes and questions to be explored, many linked with national and regional research agendas.

The Trajanic Fortlet and vicus

Similar to the fort, the range, extent and quality of preservation of material associated with the fortlet is of exceptional significance. The excavations undertaken by GMAU in the 1980s and 90s mean that a great deal more is known about the fortlet than the earlier fort. These have also proved that a considerable amount of new information can be gleaned from the re-evaluation of the older evidence using modern field techniques.

The study of those buildings related to the later fortlet has provided a greater understanding of how the fortification varied in function from its predecessor and, comparably, how it fitted in with the network of similar sites across the country. The quality and nature of the archaeology at Castleshaw has helped inform an understanding of how these sites functioned and has advanced the identification of the different types; the disproportionately large granary at Castleshaw and potential *mansio* indicating that the fortlet may have served as a supply and administrative centre, rather than as a straightforward garrison unit.

Associated with the fortlet, the recent discovery of the civilian settlement (*vicus*) in the field to the south is of exceptional significance, although more in terms of potential than actual physical evidence at this point in time. This whole area currently remains a rather unknown resource,

although the calibre of the information already gathered from limited excavation is encouraging. The *vicus* provides an extremely important opportunity to explore the inter-relationship of military and civilian population and the specific function of the 2nd century fortlet.

Finds assemblages associated with the site are of exceptional significance and cover a wide range of material including imported and domestic pottery, wood, glass, leather, lead, metal, bone and stone artefacts. Individually, many of these objects have a regional significance and together form a collection of national importance. Some of the objects also have an intrinsic value in themselves, either in terms of informing our understanding of Roman life, or as pieces of art in their own right, including some of the beads, fragments of decorated Samian and the Minerva Intaglio found in 1986.

The prehistoric evidence from the site, in particular the Bronze Age pottery, which was thought to be of domestic origin, is of considerable significance. Having been found within a stratified context (according to Thompson), it points towards the possibility for the survival of other related settlement deposits. Whilst individually, the Bronze Age, Neolithic, and particularly the Mesolithic flint assemblages are not especially important, there being better examples from the uplands, it is the potential for continuity of occupation which this multi-period assemblage could represent, which is worthy of note and would warrant further investigation in tandem with a programme of palaeo-environmental sampling.



Plate 17: *surviving evidence of old field boundaries are of some significance in terms of understanding the later development of the site and the wider valley.*

Of considerable significance is also the palaeo-environmental evidence from the Daycroft Field evaluations which illustrate something of the nature of the changing 2nd century environment and

also the potential for further investigation to inform a better understanding of the changing landscape across all periods.

The site is of slightly less significance in terms of our understanding of the later periods. The emergence of the adjacent hamlet of Castle Shaw is important with regards the development of settlement during the medieval and post medieval period but, as yet, there is no archaeological evidence pre-dating the 18th century and only inferred documentary evidence until 1538. However, there is some potential for further study into the foundation of the settlement, particularly an archaeological evaluation of the area on the eastern side of the fort, along Dirty Lane, where historic mapping shows the location of former hamlet buildings dating from at least the late 18th century (Figure 2 - 20). The hamlet is much reduced in size since the late-18th/early 19th century and targeted survey and evaluation of former building locations if the opportunity arose, may also be beneficial in helping understand the origin and development of the settlement

The various field boundaries and other extant features are also of some significance in terms of understanding the post-medieval development of the valley. Of particular importance is Dry Croft Lane because of its impact on the earlier monument and because it stands as one of the major features of the later medieval and post-medieval landscape. It helps provide a broader context for the fort site and is an integral part of the overall story of Castleshaw. The same is also true of those monuments just outside the project area including Waters Mill, Castle Hill Cote and Higher Castleshaw.

Summary of factors contributing to the EVIDENTIAL value of the site	
General	
The group value of the site including Flavian fort, later Trajanic fortlet and associated civilian settlement.	EXCEPTIONAL
Range, extent and nature of evidence preserved onsite	EXCEPTIONAL
Potential for future study and research and contribution to national, regional and site specific research agendas	EXCEPTIONAL
The good preservation of much of the buried archaeology	EXCEPTIONAL
Range of archaeological material from all periods providing an opportunity to investigate the nature of change, as well providing a broad context for the interpretation and presentation of the 'Castleshaw Story'	EXCEPTIONAL
National and regional importance of the finds collection	EXCEPTIONAL
Potential to inform a greater understanding of the wider cultural landscape of the valley including transport routes, industry, settlement patterns etc.	EXCEPTIONAL
The Flavian Fort	
The comprehensive nature of the evidence.	EXCEPTIONAL

The opportunity to research the development of a 1st century timber fort without extensive later modification (largely in the northern half of the site)	EXCEPTIONAL
Overall potential to understand more about the development, nature and extent of the fort and how it functioned.	EXCEPTIONAL
<i>The Trajanic Fortlet and vicus</i>	
The comprehensive nature and range of the evidence.	EXCEPTIONAL
The potential nature of the evidence from the <i>vicus</i> in terms of understanding the form, extent and nature of the civilian settlement and the possibility of an earlier 1st century precursor.	EXCEPTIONAL
The importance of the associated <i>vicus</i> in understanding the inter-relationship between the fort and civilian population	EXCEPTIONAL
<i>Other periods</i>	
Importance of the prehistoric evidence	CONSIDERABLE
Importance of existing palaeo-environmental evidence and potential for a further programme of sampling to expand our knowledge of the historic landscape and environment.	CONSIDERABLE
Importance of Dry Croft Lane as a potential medieval feature and in terms of understanding the nature of the development of medieval or post medieval settlement.	CONSIDERABLE
Potential for the identification of Early Medieval and medieval deposits associated with the foundation of the later hamlet of Castle Shaw.	SOME
Importance of extant field boundaries and gateposts	SOME
Role of the study area in terms of understanding the later industrial development of the valley	MARGINAL

3.4 Historical Values

The historical significance of the site falls into two key categories: a) that related to the development of the valley and surrounding area and b) that associated with the exploration and investigation of the Roman fort.

The Development of the Valley

Overall, documentary evidence associated with the site is quite poor. Much emphasis in the past has been placed on an uncritical reading of the classical histories to inform a chronology of the Roman conquest, although this has now changed. There is more material available for the post-medieval and industrial periods, but much of this is social history and related to the adjacent hamlet rather than the forts and is, therefore, only of limited significance.

The birth of history as a discipline in Britain is really formed in the Roman period with the work of

Gaius Cornelius Tacitus (AD 56 – AD 117) whose two works, *De vita Iulii Agricolae* (The Life of Agricola) and *De origine et situ Germanorum* (Germania), both written at the end of the 1st century AD, provide a historic framework for the conquest and occupation of Britain. Over the past 100 years or so, much ink and keyboard time has been expended trying to fit the events described in the 'histories' to the surviving archaeology, often glossing over any incongruities in order to shoehorn sites into the classical chronology; Castleshaw was a victim of this to some extent. *Agricola* is now widely believed to have been written as a form of funeral eulogy for Tacitus' father-in-law, who was governor of Britain AD 77-85, and as such the details of the campaigns were almost certainly exaggerated to increase the reputation of the dead man. Earlier archaeological evidence from a number of the northern campaign forts supposedly established by Agricola, now suggest that they were already in existence by AD 73. These include sites like Ribchester, Blennerhasset, Castleford and possibly Papcastle, and there is increasing evidence to suggest that Castleshaw too was founded before the AD 79 date traditionally ascribed to it (Hoffmann 2001).

'This archaeological evidence must subtract from what we have traditionally seen as Agricola's achievement, for it now appears that a number of northern sites, from Manchester to Strathmore, may already have been in occupation during the early 70s. The fact that these dates have been acquired purely by the use of dendrochronology and the analysis of the surviving archaeological record, show that the information in Tacitus' text presents difficulties '

Birgitta Hoffmann 2001.

Interpretation of the site has also been further confused by early antiquarians (and some later scholars) associating it with '*Rigodunum - The Fortress of the King*'. This was one of the nine poleis attributed to the Brigantes and described in Ptolemy's *Geography*, written in the first half of the 2nd century. Exactly why the fort has been associated with this reference is unclear, except that it vaguely fits in with the sequence of identified named sites. Ingleborough hillfort has also been associated with the name *Rigodunum*. Whatever the origins of the tradition, it has proved an association difficult to shake off, although there is absolutely no archaeological evidence to support the claim. Indeed, virtually no pre-Roman Iron Age material has been found at Castleshaw and there is, as yet, no evidence of any occupation during this period.

However, this is not to completely nullify the significance of the early Roman histories in the interpretation of Castleshaw. They do still provide an important broad chronological framework and outline the sequence of events associated with the military campaign, however, they need to be applied with a critical eye. They are also of considerable importance as a cultural reference.

In terms of later historic material, documentary evidence relating to the Roche Abbey grange is of considerable significance, and provides the only framework for the interpretation of the valley during the medieval period. Of particular significance is the 1538 Friarmere valuation document, which is

the first to directly reference *Castleshawe* and provides an outline description of the medieval landscape. The subsequent series of land grants, which stretch into the 18th century, are similarly of considerable importance regarding an understanding of the development of the area but are only of marginal significance in terms of understanding the Roman forts. The same is also true of later 19th and 20th century material associated with the hamlet and the surrounding area. However, there is considerable community potential here to involve people in local history research and possibly to provide a better understanding of the more recent history of the site. This might also provide some valuable information with regards previous site use and management, in particular anything that could have an impact on the interpretation or preservation of the archaeology.

The History of Archaeological Investigation

Perhaps of greater historical significance within the immediate project area is the long sequence of excavations and investigation undertaken at the site. The duration of interest in the site, stretching back to the mid 18th century, tracks the development of antiquarianism and the birth of archaeology as a modern discipline. Associated with this are also figures of some renown.

Attributed with the discovery of the site in the 18th century was Thomas Percival (1740–1804), a prominent physician and author and member of the Manchester Industrial and Philosophical Society. Percival had been plotting the course of the Roman road between Manchester and York (Margary 712), which he described

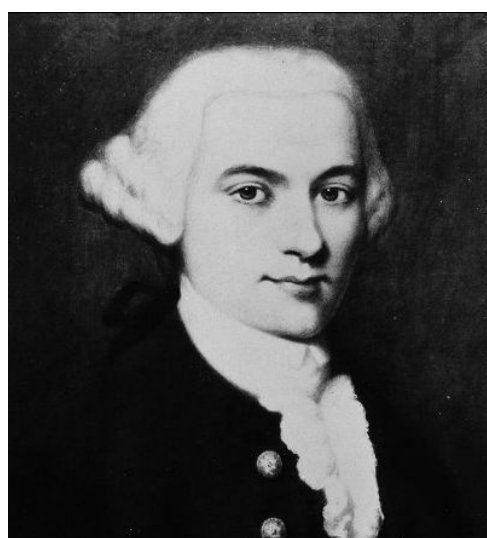


Figure 23: portrait of Thomas Percival
from the Ryland's Collection © JRUL

at that time to be *'the finest remains of a Roman Road I ever saw'*. There was a general interest in all things 'classical' during the 18th century, inspired by the popularity of the Grand Tour. For those without the means or inclination to travel to the ancient sites abroad, the forts and roads of Britain became the focus of much attention. Percival may have also been inspired by the resurgence of road building, prompted by the construction of the turnpike networks. When not traipsing about the countryside in search of antiquities, Percival was a doctor at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he became increasingly concerned about the varying degrees of competence exhibited across the medical profession, as well as differing attitudes to patients depending on whether they were rich or poor. His concerns culminated in the production of a code of conduct in 1794, later expanded and published in 1803. This was to form the basis of the modern code of medical ethics. He was also one of the founder members of the First Board of Health in Manchester in 1795 (Thorner 2001).

Another much loved local figure associated with the site is the poet, writer and antiquarian, Ammon Wrigley (1861-1946), who undertook some of the first recorded excavations at the site. Wrigley was

born in Friarmere, Saddleworth in 1861 and from the age of 9 worked in the local textile mill. He showed an early talent in writing, composing his first poem at the age of 12, and his later poetry and prose vividly reflects moorland and village life in and around Saddleworth in the late 19th and early 20th century: a period of considerable change both in terms of landscape and local culture. He wrote in the local dialect, his work offering a '*parochial vision of a world that he knew was disappearing*' (VADS 2011). Wrigley died in 1946 and his ashes were scattered at the Dinner Stone, on Millstone Edge at the head of the Castleshaw valley, where a bronze memorial plaque was erected (National Archives 2011). In 1991, a new statue of the poet by Roger Tanner was unveiled at Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery to mark the 130th anniversary of Wrigley's birth.

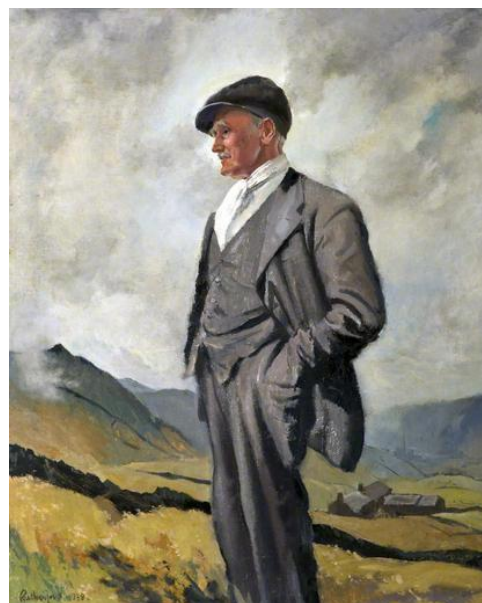


Figure 24: painting of Ammon Wrigley by Harry Rutherford (1938) © Gallery Oldham

Another figure of note is the archaeologist, and Roman military specialist, Professor Sir Ian Richmond (1905-65), who re-examined the Bruton pottery in the 1920s, establishing the first archaeological site chronology (Richmond 1929). Richmond had gained a practical knowledge of Roman military sites working for Mortimer Wheeler at Segontium in Wales and from 1926 to 1930, he was a lecturer in classical archaeology at the Queen's University, Belfast, before becoming the Director of the British School in Rome. In 1935 he was appointed to a lectureship in Romano-British history at the University of Durham, during which he carried out numerous excavations along Hadrian's Wall. In 1956 he became the first holder of the Chair in the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford and just a year before his death in 1965, was knighted in recognition of his services to the country (The Times, 6th October 1965).

'Sunday, August 15th, 1897 - I lie in one of the fields on Broadhead Noddle, and see, for the first time, the outlines of the Roman station at Castleshaw, everything distinct and complete; the green swell of the northern rampart, with the depression marking the position of the gateway; the straight, clean elevation of the western rampart; the southern fosse and the inner fort, with two Roman soldiers – I mean red cows – coming across it.'

Extract from 'Songs of a Moorland Parish' (Wrigley 1912, 305)

Other less famous figures include F.H. Thompson, General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, who conducted the Manchester University excavations between 1960 and 1964 and went on to undertake excavations in Chester, Kent and Derbyshire, publishing a wide range of books and

articles on Roman and Iron Age archaeology amongst other topics. There is also F.A. Bruton, the Classics master at Manchester Grammar, who conducted the first large-scale excavations of the forts at Manchester (Mamucium) in 1906 and the following year at Castleshaw, and C.E.P Rosser, who began the Manchester University excavations in 1957, but sadly a few years later, committed suicide (Redhead *pers. com*). The site also has strong links with the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society (LCAS) and Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS), whose members included Samuel Andrews, G.F. Buckley and Major William Lees, men who all played an important role in the early investigations of the site. This was a period when the modern discipline of archaeology was in its genesis, and it was through early excavations on sites like Manchester and Castleshaw, that modern field techniques and archaeological methodologies began to develop, moving away from the enthusiastic but rather anarchic investigations of the earlier antiquarians.

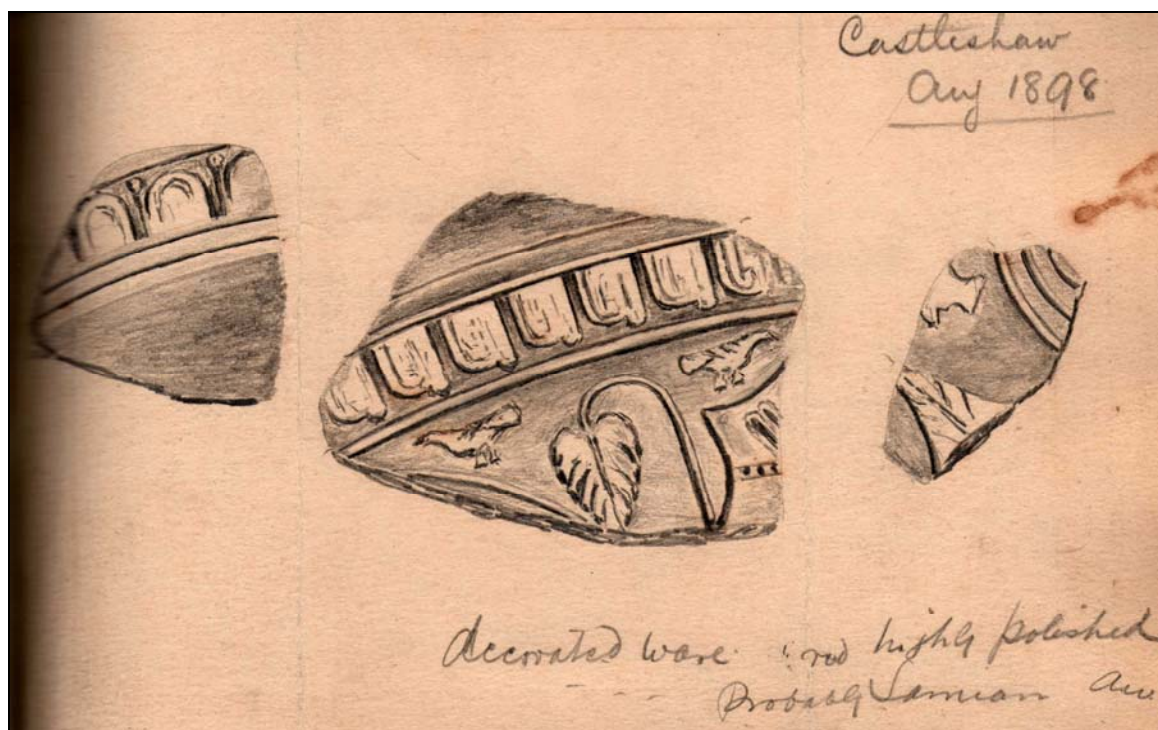


Figure 25: Sketch of pottery sherd found at Castleshaw made by Ammon Wrigley in 1898 (kindly provided by David Chadderton) © D. Chadderton

Excavations at Castleshaw trace the history of these developments across the last hundred years or so, beginning with the rather random test pitting of Ammon Wrigley; to the more informed excavations of Bruton; the later training excavations of Manchester University, where Rosser employed the grid methods developed by Mortimer Wheeler, and finally, the open area excavations and variation of single context recording used by GMAU. The site has also witnessed the development of modern site survey techniques, progressing from the sketches of Percival, to the detailed plans of the GMAU, as well as remote prospecting like geophysical survey. Investigations of the site also reflect changes in the organisation and funding of the discipline, beginning with excavations funded by the interested wealthy, through the emergence of university departments and

the later formation of local authority field units and government initiatives such as the Manpower Services Commission schemes, which launched a number of the country's current leading archaeologists on their career. This development continues today with the increasing involvement of community driven projects and non-professional training programmes. As such, the history of research at Castleshaw tracks the history of the modern discipline of archaeology, a factor which has considerable potential in terms of future public interpretation and presentation.

Summary of factors contributing to the HISTORICAL value of the site	
Castleshaw tracks the history of the development of archaeology as a modern discipline.	EXCEPTIONAL
Ammon Wrigley's association with the site, given the local significance of the figure.	EXCEPTIONAL
Importance of Castleshaw in term of informing a new interpretation of the classical texts	CONSIDERABLE
Thomas Percival's connections with the site	CONSIDERABLE
Sir Ian Richmond's association with the site	CONSIDERABLE
Importance of the classical text in providing a chronological framework for the archaeology	SOME
Medieval and immediately post medieval documentary evidence regarding land use under the Roche Abbey grange and the subsequent development of settlement and related landscape.	SOME
Later documentary evidence in terms of understanding local and social history but only of marginal significance relating directly to the project area	SOME
F.H. Thompson, Rosser and Bruton's association with the site	SOME
Association with non-professional archaeological societies like LCAS and YAS and continuing this legacy with the Saddleworth Historical Society and Saddleworth Archaeological Trust	SOME
Association with G.F. Buckley and others.	MARGINAL

3.4 Aesthetic Values

The isolation and remoteness of the monument, nestling in the lee of the imposing Pennine uplands, is of exceptional significance to the site and evokes strong emotions in the majority of visitors. The unique aesthetic qualities of Castleshaw were one of the aspects frequently mentioned during the public consultation on significance, with many people commenting on the impressive views and feelings of peace and seclusion.

Castleshaw's location, at the transition between the more populated valley bottom and the wilder moorland and rocky outcrops beyond, creates a real 'edge of civilisation' feeling, which helps

considerably in visualising the site as a military outpost. Key to this is the openness of the bleak hillside and moor, with few trees breaking the view; even the modern reservoirs seem vast and daunting. In contrast, the area of the forts is enclosed and contained – a stronghold of human-scale within an impersonal landscape. An important element contributing to this is the weather, which on a good day can make Castleshaw a sedate and peaceful place, but in winter sees it desolate and remote. As such, the aesthetic qualities of the site can alter and change with each visit and are seldom predictable.



Plate 18: view north-east out towards the Pennine uplands beyond. This is typical of the long views, broken only by blocks of plantation and a few scattered settlements, which contribute to the aesthetic significance of the site and its unique ‘sense of place’.

The significant views out across to the uplands on three sides, reinforce this feeling of isolation and provide some spectacular distant key views and vistas. Contributing to this sense of perspective are the traditional gritstone walls which stretch out into the distance. Views south-west down the river valley are less visually stimulating but are, nevertheless, significant in terms of understanding the site, as the Roman road crosses the valley in this direction. Similarly, views to the site from the uplands are important, particularly for those approaching on foot from the network of long-distance routes and footpaths which cross the area; the most significant of which must be the route following the old Roman road.

Summary of factors contributing to the AESTHETIC value of the site	
Castleshaw sits at a point of transition between the open, wild landscape of the upland and the more populated and contained valley bottom.	EXCEPTIONAL
There is a strong sense of remoteness and isolation preserved at the site, evoking an ‘edge of civilisation’ feeling.	EXCEPTIONAL
In contrast to the expanse of the surrounding landscape, the forts seem	CONSIDERABLE

contained, and 'human' in scale.	
All of the lines of the surrounding landscape contribute to the 'open' quality of the site, with few blocks of trees to break up the sweep of the views and vistas	CONSIDERABLE
Importance of views across and along the hill slopes with uplands beyond (north, east and west)	CONSIDERABLE
View down the valley (south-west) important in terms of understanding the local topography and why the Roman road and forts were constructed here.	SOME
The site evokes a different feeling and mood dependent on the season and weather	SOME

3.4 Community Values

The site is of exceptional local communal value to those who regularly use it. Most of those regularly visiting already have a special interest in archaeology, but other core user groups include short and long distance walkers and school children on organised activity trips from the Castleshaw Centre. However, there is considerable potential to reach a wider audience and improve the educational and interpretative appeal of the site, without compromising its sense of peace and isolation. A wide variety of non-intrusive methods of interpretation might be employed creatively to improve the visitor experience for both existing and new users. There are also opportunities for linking Castleshaw with existing national and regional initiatives to improve community health, encourage inter-generational interaction and involve traditionally excluded user groups.

The significance of the site in terms of tourism is relatively low, although it is one of the few sites in the region where Roman archaeology is publically accessible within a rural setting. The only other Roman sites in the area are the reconstructed fort at Manchester and the remains of the fortresses at York and Chester. However, there is undeniably little to see at Castleshaw and the site currently relies considerably on the imagination of the visitor. Most stay for just a short period - between 20-30 minutes. Some people come to the site specifically to see the archaeology, but most visit 'en route' as part of a longer walk or a regular short activity like jogging or exercising the dog.

The educational potential of the site is one of the areas considered to be of exceptional significance but currently only exploited by the Castleshaw Centre which runs a series of engaging and stimulating activities centred on the forts. There is the opportunity to work with the Centre to provide online resources to schools, covering a range of themed curriculum subjects at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 including history, geography, maths, ecology, art and English. There are also important opportunities for adult education in archaeology and history.

Summary of factors contributing to the COMMUNITY value of the site	
Significance to archaeological interest groups	EXCEPTIONAL
Significance to school groups associated with the Castleshaw Centre	EXCEPTIONAL
Significance to walkers and hikers (individuals and groups)	CONSIDERABLE
Educational potential for all ages	CONSIDERABLE
Potential for community engagement at all levels, particularly through the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Fort (FCRF)	CONSIDERABLE
Potential significance in promoting health initiatives	CONSIDERABLE
Significance to 40+ age group	CONSIDERABLE
Significance of current interpretation and engagement	SOME
Significance in terms of wider tourist potential	SOME
Significance to young families and those <30	MARGINAL

3.5 Ecological Values

The study area does not support ecological resources of exceptional significance, but it is important to recognise the exceptional significance of the natural habitat in terms of contributing to the character of the landscape and the character and appearance of the forts both in its current and historic context and also as supplementary and contiguous habitat to the SPA and SAC designations on the adjacent Pennine moors.

The structure of the habitats is such that the species diverse hay meadow and the wetland/marsh habitats of Waters Clough have considerable value both in their existing species diversity and their ability to support other important species of note such as bird and water vole. Similarly, of considerable ecological value is the management of the site in a relatively low input manner, which is increasingly unusual in an agricultural context and is essential to the future maintenance of the site's biodiversity value. The value of these fields – which have been previously unknown to GMEU – is likely to result in their being recommended as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI), although further investigation about the recent management of the site needs to be conducted.

Daycroft Field, associated footpaths, and habitats along Waters Clough, have considerable value in providing both nesting and feeding areas for a number of UK Biodiversity Priority Species. These include the birds – skylark, lapwing, curlew and reed bunting along with the mammals such as water vole and hare.

The habitats of the Roman fort itself have some value, as they again demonstrate examples of characteristic habitats for the locality.

Summary of factors contributing to the ECOLOGICAL value of the site	
Significance as part of the wider natural and historic landscape	EXCEPTIONAL
Significance of ecology as a continuation of the SPA and SAC	CONSIDERABLE
Significance of the current management policy of low input in the maintenance of species habitat	CONSIDERABLE
Habitats of the hay meadow (Daycroft Field) in supporting broad species diversity including both nesting and feeding areas for a number of UK Biodiversity Priority Species as well as mammals such as hare.	CONSIDERABLE
Habitats of the wetlands/marsh along Waters Clough in supporting broad species diversity including both nesting and feeding areas for a number of UK Biodiversity Priority Species as well as mammals such as water vole.	CONSIDERABLE
The habitats of the Roman forts	SOME

3.6 Significance by Area (Figure 26)

Those values contributing to the significance do vary spatially across the site, particularly with regard to historic, evidential and ecological significance. The following section summarises significance by zone, as illustrated in figure 26. It is based on the current values as well as potential *i.e.* the current communal value of some areas is poor but this would improve with better interpretation. This means that significance will, of course, vary in response to any changes and developments in the future.

Flavian Fort (A)

The area of the Flavian fort is of **exceptional** overall significance. In terms of evidential value it is of exceptional significance as a well-preserved example of a 1st century Roman auxiliary fort (although preservation is likely to be better in those areas outside the footprint of the later fortlet. There is also some evidence of later field boundaries, including gatepost pairs, which provide a context for the later development of the site. Historically, the zone is of exceptional significance because of the long programme of investigations associated with the fort and a number of famous people associated with these. Aesthetically, it provides panoramic views across the valley and is key to the overall sense of place of the site; but is currently less visible in the landscape than the partially restored fortlet. As a community resource, it is of considerable significance as the primary reason why many people visit the site but, again, it is much harder to interpret than the fortlet, making it less intellectually accessible, although there is a great deal of potential for improvement. Ecologically, this zone is only of some significance in terms of providing a diverse species habitat.

Trajanic Fortlet (B)

The area of the Trajanic fortlet is of **exceptional** significance. In terms of evidential value, it is of exceptional significance as a well-preserved example of a 2nd century fortlet. Historically, the zone is of exceptional significance because of the long programme of excavation associated with the site; in particular this is the only area excavated using modern archaeological field methodologies,

meaning that we know considerably more about the fortlet than its predecessor. Aesthetically, the reconstruction of the ramparts by the GMAU has meant that this is the most visual element of the site. Like the fort, it also provides panoramic views across the valley and is key to the overall sense of place. It shares the same exceptional community significance as the fort but the reconstruction work makes it of more importance in terms of site interpretation and the overall visitor experience. Ecologically, this zone is only of some significance in terms of providing a diverse species habitat.

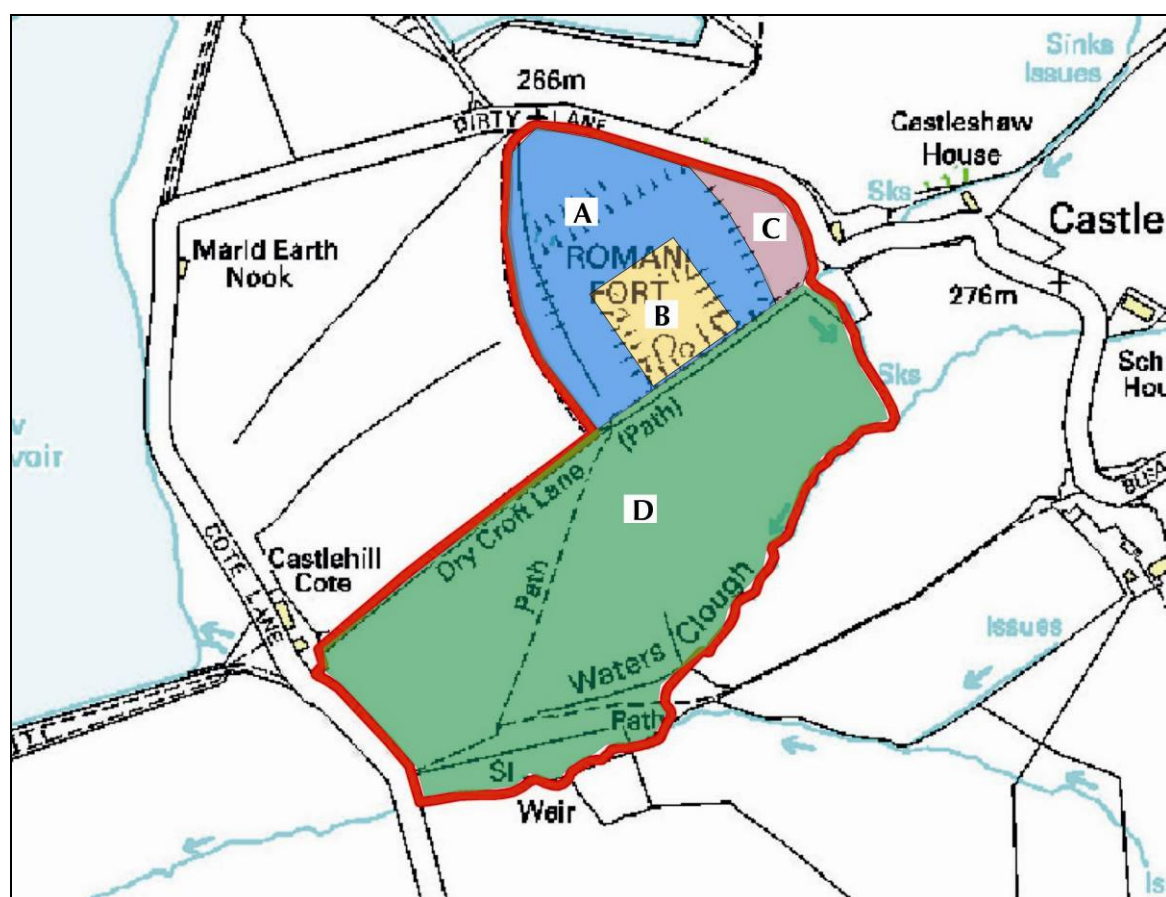


Figure 26: Castleshaw zones of significance.

Area adjacent to hamlet (C)

This small zone immediately adjacent to the later hamlet of Castle Shaw is of overall **considerable** significance. Evidentially, the area is of exceptional significance because of its high archaeological potential as it is one of the areas least disturbed by earlier excavation. The course of the Roman road potentially runs across the area, as well as the *Via Praetoria* leaving the eastern gate. Any material related to the foundation of the hamlet is also most likely to be in this location and this could advance an understanding of site use in the post-fort and post-Roman period. There are also the upstanding remains of pre-19th century building footings in this area. Historically, the zone is of some significance given its proximity to the forts. Aesthetically, it is of considerable significance as it forms part of the setting of the forts. It is the main approach to the site from the north and the focus of short views across from Castle Shaw and along Dirty and Bleak Hey Nook lanes. It is of some

community value as the main entrance for disabled visitors, allows visual access across the fort for residents and visitors to Castle Shaw and has considerable potential in terms of the interpretation of the site to the public *if* medieval deposits are found. Ecologically its significance is marginal.

Daycroft Field (D)

Daycroft Field is of **exceptional** overall significance. The recent discovery of the civilian settlement (*vicus*) in the northern half of the field, adjacent to the forts, makes this area of exceptional significance in terms of its evidential value, although the extent of this has not yet been fully established. Medieval and post-medieval features include Daycroft Lane and various field boundaries, which are particularly well-preserved along Waters Clough. These are the only immediately visible non-Roman archaeological features within the project area and are important in terms of telling the story of the development of the medieval and post-medieval landscape. Historically, the zone is of some significance as cartographic sources track the changing course of the field boundaries and provide some interpretation of the development of the landscape and local economy. Aesthetically, this zone is of exceptional significance. It provides the main approach to the fort site from the public car park and provides important views out to the south-west along the line of the Roman road and is probably one of the best locations within the project area for both the forts and the road to be seen together in one view. As a community resource, it is of some significance as a large open space for various activities and there is substantial potential to expand on interpretative material relating to the *vicus* and in so doing, provide a more comprehensive story of life in the forts. Ecologically, the hayfield and wetland/marsh along Waters Clough are of considerable significance in supporting broad species diversity, including both nesting and feeding areas for a number of UK Biodiversity Priority Species, as well as mammals such as hare and water vole. It is the most important area in this regards on the site and there is potential for interpretative material relating to the natural environment to be explored in this capacity.

Significance by zone	Evidential	Historical	Aesthetic	Community	Ecological
Flavian Fort (A)	EXCEPTIONAL	EXCEPTIONAL	CONSIDERABLE	CONSIDERABLE	SOME
Trajanic Fortlet (B)	EXCEPTIONAL	EXCEPTIONAL	EXCEPTIONAL	EXCEPTIONAL	SOME
Area adjacent to hamlet (C)	EXCEPTIONAL	SOME	CONSIDERABLE	SOME	MARGINAL
Daycroft Field (D)	EXCEPTIONAL	SOME	EXCEPTIONAL	SOME	CONSIDERABLE

4.0 PROTECTING SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Protecting the Significance of the Castleshaw Roman Forts

There are a number of existing and potential threats which could compromise those elements which contribute to Castleshaw's unique cultural significance. The following section considers these risks and issues as well as exploring opportunities which could enhance and improve the overall site experience. At the end of each item there are a series of policies aimed to mitigate or limit these potential threats, providing a clear and practical way forward towards the long-term management of the site.

4.2 General Aims

The Castleshaw Vision

The forts will provide a stimulating and educational visitor experience for all, bringing Castleshaw's Roman past to life whilst still preserving the isolation and 'edge of civilisation' feeling so central to its sense of place. The site will provide visitors with a good understanding of life in the Castleshaw valley during the 1st and 2nd century AD, as well as placing the forts in a wider regional and national context. It will be a focus for education, healthy exercise, recreation and an appreciation of the natural environment and an asset to Oldham, United Utilities, the local community, and all other users.

The vision will be achieved through active conservation, good management and sensitive audience development strategies, with the aim of preserving, balancing and enhancing all aspects of the site's unique cultural significance.

Adopting the Plan

The various stakeholders and the local community will need to work together to achieve this vision and ensure the future of the site as a valuable heritage asset. The success of the Plan is, therefore, dependent on the agreement and understanding of all the major stakeholders: Castleshaw Working Party, Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts, United Utilities, the tenant, Oldham MBC, English Heritage, Castleshaw Centre, Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit and the curators of the various collections. Adoption of the Plan must also include appropriate financial provision to implement policies and a suitable timetable for assessment and review. Site significance should only be changed after an appropriate 'research and review' period and not on the basis of future management expediency.

4.3 Statutory and Non-Statutory Requirements

As a Scheduled Monument, the site is protected and bound by both statutory and non-statutory guidance.

Scheduled Monument Status

The Castleshaw forts are a Scheduled Monument as defined in the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. As such, any activity which might be construed to impact on the site - including demolition or destruction, repair, drainage, extension or altering in any way - must have prior written consent from the Secretary of State. This would include the installation of fencing, gates and paths, tree planting and the erection of signage as well as other more radical changes. Failure to comply in this is a criminal offence. Research activities like geophysical and metal detecting surveys will require a licence from English Heritage. In all cases, in advance of any works it is always advisable to contact the Greater Manchester Archaeologists for advice.

The setting of a Scheduled Monument is further protected by Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, 2010). This is intended to ensure that any development within the area of a known scheduled site is carefully assessed. In terms of the guidance a monuments setting is defined as

'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral' (PPS5 2010,15).

As such, setting does not necessarily have to relate spatially to the monument but might be any element which affects our understanding of it.

Regional and Local Policy

Future North West (formerly the Regional Spatial Strategy (RS2010)) identifies the importance of promoting heritage as one of the 'Big Ticket Issues' (BTI) to be developed across the region.

BTI10: Develop our sporting, cultural and quality of place offer, based on our world famous places, heritage and environmental assets, particularly Manchester, Liverpool, Chester and the Lake District (4NW 2010, 51)

The *Oldham Local Development Scheme 2009* (currently under review), which replaced the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), similarly stresses the need to protect and conserve:

'the Borough's natural, historical and cultural assets, including landscapes, parks and gardens, trees and woodlands; designated wildlife habitats and biodiversity; listed buildings, Conservation Areas, archaeological sites, ancient monuments and other elements of the historic fabric of the Borough' (Oldham MBC 2009, 61)

Policy C1.11 of the UDP (retained in the LDS) refers directly to the significance of protecting,

preserving and enhancing the districts scheduled monuments, including Castleshaw, and states that the council:

‘will encourage and develop the educational, recreational and tourist potential of Scheduled Ancient Monuments through suitable management, interpretation and promotion of their historic value’.
(Oldham MBC 2006, 12/10/11)

POLICY G1: ADOPTING THE PLAN

All the main stakeholders should agree on, and adopt, the Plan as the basis for future management strategies and key guidance in assessing any proposed changes. An appropriate timetable for amendment should be established and no statement of significance changed except after appropriate research and review.

POLICY G2: STATUTORY CONTROLS

All stakeholders will ensure that any maintenance or development work undertaken on, or in the vicinity of, the forts is in strict accordance with statutory controls and planning policy (and any revision or amendments to those controls). No work should be undertaken without consultation with the appropriate authorities and the provision of the necessary consents.

4.4 Physical Condition: Protecting the Material Evidence

Condition of the Archaeological Remains

Generally the monument is stable but across the area of the 1st century fort, old excavation trenches have been left open and are causing a number of problems. The open trenches and spoil from these excavations mar the landscape and make interpretation of the site very difficult for the untrained eye; they also contribute to problems with drainage and contribute towards the abundance of soft rush which grows profusely across the area. Further to this, the uneven ground is a health and safety issue and severely limits disabled access.



Plates 19 & 20: *old excavation trenches left open after the Bruton and University of Manchester training excavations but now a major threat to the condition and interpretation of the site*

Prior to the conservation works undertaken by the GMAU in the 1980s the fortlet was in a similar condition but today the contrast between the two areas is immediately apparent. The partially restored ramparts of the fortlet are clearly visible within the landscape as opposed to the fort which is difficult to pick out. In fact, many people think that the fortlet is the fort until they read the information panels. The condition of the fortlet also makes it much easier to move around and visualise how it might have looked.



Plates 21 & 22: aerial photograph taken before and after the GMAU excavations of the fortlet and rampart restorations work – in the latter, the line of the later feature is clearly visible but the outline of the earlier fort remains difficult to determine.

Given the success of the GMAU work, a further phase of conservation and consolidation is recommended focused on the Flavian fort, bringing it in line with that already undertaken at the later fortlet. Such works would obviously require permission from both English Heritage and United Utilities, but both parties have already shown their initial support. In advance of such remedial work there is an opportunity to re-excavate and record the old excavation trenches using modern field methodologies, as well as possibly a degree of new investigation. A similar approach was applied by the GMAU in the 1980s with considerable success and resulted in a great deal of new information adding to our understanding of the site. Such an approach would also provide an excellent training opportunity for a wide range of individuals.

Following excavations, a programme of limited reconstruction would be recommended to improve the presentation of the site to the public. This is discussed further in Section 4.11. However, all excavation and consolidation work would be subject to securing suitable funding in advance, not only for fieldwork but also for post-excavation analysis, reporting, conservation, storage, and site reinstatement.

Erosion

Outside the area of the fort the condition of the site is generally good. There are some signs of erosion along Waters Clough but these are relatively contained. The banks of the clough are eroding

gradually over time as heavy rain and snow melt wash down from the uplands and contribute to a process of attrition and bank reformation. There is little immediate threat to those features along the clough which are largely set back from the bank edge. However this situation will need to be monitored. It is recommended that in the late spring, or after heavy rainfall, the course of the clough is walked to identify any potential archaeological material eroding out of the banks. This could be undertaken by the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts. The collection of finds washed out of the banks does not require scheduled monument consent providing that no ground deposits are disturbed (Andrew Davison, *pers.com.*). Any *in-situ* deposits exposed should be recorded and reported to the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist. A protocol for the reporting and recording of such spot finds needs to be established and agreed with English heritage and the County Archaeologist (see Policy H3).



Plates 23 & 24: erosion and bank subsidence along Waters Clough and footfall erosion on the fort approach

There is a small amount of footfall erosion at the entrance into the main fort area. This could be easily rectified by a soil infill and reseeding before it gets too bad. It would be difficult to establish an alternative route up onto the monument but netting could be placed over the reseeded area until it is re-established. Elsewhere there is currently very little sign of erosion damage, although this could increase with a rise in visitor numbers and would need to be monitored.

Vegetation

Soft rush is a considerable problem across the site, particularly in the marshier and poorly drained areas. Within the fortlet the problem is largely limited to the south-western corner but across the fort the issue is widespread. Sheep are introduced periodically within the main monument to graze the grass sward but will not eat the soft rush. Cattle would do this but would cause too much damage to the archaeology especially to the north of the site where water logging is an issue.

In localised areas of growth, where the interpretation of the archaeology is a key objective, a

programme of hand cutting/mowing with handheld machines could be considered. This extremely labour intensive method would need to be combined with both the removal of the cut rush and the continuation of the grazing regime. If cutting is introduced it is likely that it would need to be continued on an ongoing basis, as if stopped the natural vegetation mix of grass and rush would quickly re-establish. This approach would not be successful in areas where the drainage is greatly impeded and the soils waterlogged for the majority of the year. It would also be very difficult to introduce to the north of the fortlet as the uneven ground surface resulting from the old excavation trenches would limit the degree of cutting which could be achieved. Sheep also tend to avoid this area and instead graze the less undulating/pitted areas of the site. Backfilling the open trenches and levelling out the spoil tips would make the management of vegetation in this area much easier and might alleviate some of the drainage issues.



Plate 25 *soft rush is a problem across the fort area, particularly in areas of poor drainage.*

Grazing

Sheep graze Daycroft Field throughout the winter until early-mid April when they are removed while the hay crop matures; they are then returned in July once the hay has been cropped (Mr Hirst *pers.com*). Sheep are kept out of the main fort area by fencing but are introduced in controlled periods to maintain the grass sward which protects the underlying archaeology and makes the site more accessible to the public. Changes to grazing regimes may need to be considered in the light of any future site presentation proposals, as in the past this has jeopardised the long term success of the variation in vegetation methods used to outline the fortlet buildings following the GMAU excavations. However, stock level inside the fort need to be carefully managed to avoid any damage to the archaeology, particularly erosion in the marshier areas to the north of the fortlet. Areas susceptible to stock damage would also include the steep banks of the ramparts where sheep scraps easily develop and erosion around standing features like the gateposts and information signs, as well

as the formation of desire trails. However, there was only limited evidence of this type of damage observed during the field survey.

Outside of the main fort, there is some stock damage in the softer ground along Waters Clough. Such poaching is often seen as part of the natural component of the stream marsh grassland ecotone and provides differences in microtopography and micro-drainage allowing variation in the vegetation structure to develop. However, if such poaching becomes excessive the rich marsh habitat would deteriorate and aggressive species would begin to dominate. Careful level management needs to be considered and if the poaching in this area becomes excessive consideration should be given to temporarily fencing off the clough and stream in order for the area to recover. The current level of poaching on the stream's margins is not seen as deleterious.

There is trample damage associated with the location of winter feeding bails and vehicles tracking across the area to deliver them. The extent of the damage may have been exacerbated this year by the unusual weather conditions and that the stock remained grazing on the field later than usual. Again, the damage is well away from the main monument and associated *vicus* but at the moment the nature of the sub-surface archaeological resource in this area is unknown. However, the issue is having an impact on the extant remains of the old field boundaries. Unfortunately, moving the feeding area to higher, drier ground would bring it closer to the known areas of high archaeological sensitivity. Reseeding and keeping stock out until the sward has grown back would repair the existing damage but is not a long-term solution in terms of resolving the feeding issue. If reseeded is deemed necessary the preferred method would be the light scarification of the surface of the soil by raking and the light spreading/strewing of dry hay, which has been cut from the field after seeding has occurred (late July – early August). The hay should be left for a few days turned manually and left for a further few days before being raked off. The use of proprietary brought seed mixes should be avoided. The spot treatment with a weed-wipe of undesirable species such as dock and thistle may be required in the season following reestablishment of vegetation.

Archaeological evaluation along the clough might serve to identify 'safe zones' for stock feeding but until then winter feeding along the clough should be avoided and sacrificial zones identified where there is already extensive damage, such adjacent to the gate at Castle Hill Cote. A small number of sacrificial areas could be identified both away from archaeological features and in less species rich areas and these could be used on a rotational basis. Scatter feed across the meadow does not cause a problem to the archaeology, just concentrated areas of focused activity. If scatter feeding is considered it needs to be located outside areas of high floristic diversity and should be controlled so that the amount of feed is limited so that the sheep do not leave areas/clumps of uneaten hay/haylage. The uneaten remnants of feed will act as a 'thatch' inhibiting the growth of spring herbs and the eventual decomposition of the uneaten hay will increase nutrients favouring undesirable species such as dock and nettle.

Any proposed changes to farming practices should be done in direct discussion with the farmer, who should be made aware of both the objectives to protect the underlying archaeology and the floristic diversity of Daycroft Field. The farmer has considerable experience of both his stock and the functioning of the field and he will be able to adjust his working management practices in order to facilitate the best outcome for all interested parties.

There is currently no written agreement in terms of stock numbers and existing levels seem to be causing only minimal damage along the clough as noted above, but any increase in numbers would need to be carefully monitored in order to assess any increased risk to the monument.



Plates 26 & 27: damage caused by winter feeding along Waters Clough, and damage to field boundary close to feeding area

Animal Burrowing

A small amount of mole damage was observed during the field survey, associated with one of the boundary features along Waters Clough, but overall evidence was slight. As such, no remedial action is currently recommended although the site should be monitored for any signs of increased activity attributable to either moles or rabbits.

Vandalism and Litter

There is little evidence of vandalism on site but where it does occur, it seems to focus on the car park. There was a small amount of graffiti on one of the walls noted during the field survey and portable BBQs have caused damage to the picnic tables. There has also previously been a problem with people sleeping overnight in cars (Peter Sharples *pers.com.*). The car park will probably continue to be the focus of any anti-social behaviour but it is unlikely that any perpetrators would make the effort to venture up onto the fort site. The interpretation panels erected around the fortlet following the 1980s excavations have never been vandalised (although the weather has taken its toll). However, this issue might influence the potential location of an information panels at the car park.

Litter is currently not seen as a major issue except, again, at the car park. Vandal-proof litter bins are located within this area and appear to be regularly emptied although plastic bottles were still strewn about the floor. However, there was no litter observed within the scheduled area. With regards to both litter and vandalism, there is the potential for both to increase if more people are attracted to the site but this is not anticipated given the nature of the target audience.



Plates 28 & 29: graffiti on car park wall and portable BBQ fire damage to picnic bench.

Although there was no litter in the scheduled area there was a dump of building debris and old drainage pipes close to the south-western entrance. This was a bit of an eyesore and did not create a good first impression for visitors entering the site. It is recommended that this area be cleared. Some of the debris appeared to be dressed building stone so might warrant further examination before being removed, although no features are shown in this location on any of the historic mapping.



Plates 30 & 31: litter in Castleshaw public car park despite the provision of suitable litter bins and building debris at the entrance to the scheduled area

While both litter and vandalism levels are low, isolated episodes are unpredictable. Therefore, while no specific measures (beyond standard maintenance) are recommended, it is advised that procedures are put in place to deal with any episodes. These might comprise just having an agreed

representative from the FCRF who will act as a contact for people to report incidents to and who can put remedial action in place. This might also include identifying a small fund to put aside to deal with any immediate issues arising from damage.

Vehicular Damage

Areas of inadvertent ground disturbance were noted within the scheduled area which could impact upon any sub-surface archaeology; this occurred particularly in poor drainage areas. Close to the south-western entrance of the site, an area of disturbed ground was observed close to the footpath where a vehicle had tracked repeatedly over wet ground and churned up the soil. This was well away from the main monument but evidence of vehicle damage extended across Daycroft Field. Heavy vehicles should not be used within this area. Quad bikes may leave less damage and could be used for stock management but should avoid the marshier areas along the clough. No vehicles should be used across the enclosed fort site.



Plates 32 & 33: damage caused by farm vehicles tracking across poorly drained areas of the site

There were no signs of mountain or trial bike damage observed during the field survey, although the gates at Daycroft Field and into the main site enclosure would make bike access relatively easy. Mountain bike use across Daycroft Field is not likely to cause too much damage, as long as kept to the main footpath. There could potentially be a problem along Waters Clough, particularly if the upstanding field boundaries were used as ramps, although there is currently no indication of this. The area most susceptible to damage from bikes is the enclosed fort area and changing the gate design here to a kissing gate or stile would make it more difficult to access but would also limit stock and disabled access. However, in general, most mountain bikers are responsible people who enjoy healthy exercise in the natural landscape and should be encouraged, not dissuaded, from visiting the site (although trial bikes are a different issue). Any mitigation is unwarranted at this point in time but should be monitored for signs of future change. One option to be considered might be the provision of an area in the car park where bikes can be safely locked up while riders visit the monument.

Metal Detectorists

An increase in public interest in the site could potentially see a rise in the threat of illegal metal detecting; a practice commonly known as 'night-hawking'. The use of a metal detector anywhere on a scheduled monument is a criminal offence, which could result in prosecution and a hefty fine or even a prison sentence. No evidence of night-hawking was found during the field survey and the tenant farmer generally keeps a good eye out for any suspicious activity. One way to deter such activity would be to form links with responsible metal detectorists through local groups, potentially through the Greater Manchester Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) (Vanessa Oakden).

Septic Tank

A septic tank, associated with the GMAU site hut, is located on the eastern side of the site (SD 9992 9704). This could potentially be a health and safety hazard in terms of any sub-surface excavations in this area.

Global Warming

Archaeological sites are coming under increased threat from changes linked by some authorities with global warming and climate change. There is currently little evidence of any immediate problems associated with this at Castleshaw, although there is a moderate risk of increased flooding along Waters Clough, which might be an issue in the future and needs to be monitored.

POLICY C1: CONSERVATION OF THE FORT SITE

Strategy should be put in place to undertake restoration work across the Flavian fort in line with those already undertaken at the Trajanic fortlet.

This would include securing all permissions and adequate funding to undertake re-excavation and reinstatement of old trenches and removal of old spoil. Funding would need to provide for post-excavation analysis and reporting; as well as all consolidation (and reconstruction) work. This will obviously require considerable planning and input from a number of different people, not least the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist who has direct practical experience of organising community excavations on the site.

POLICY C2: SITE MONITORING

A periodic (quinquennial) programme of conditions monitoring should be agreed upon. This will include the monitoring of erosion, vegetation cover, stock damage and footfall erosion.

The current CMP will provide a base line survey for future assessments and a programme of monitoring undertaken by the FCRF should be agreed. There may need to be increased monitoring to assess any impact of major phases of change, like a potential increase in visitor numbers following improvements to site presentation.

POLICY C3: STOCK MANAGEMENT AND GRAZING

In consultation with the farmer and United Utilities, agree a programme of stock management and a grazing regime which will protect and enhance the archaeology and ecology of the site. Establish good communication between all parties and ensure periodic conditions monitoring.

This should include establishing procedures for winter feeding. Any programme would need to be reviewed in the light of changes to the future presentation of the fort and fortlet.

POLICY C4: CONTROLLING VEGETATION

In consultation with the farmer and United Utilities, agree a programme of vegetation management including stock management and potential rush cropping in key areas. Longer-term objective is the consolidation of area north of the fortlet including remains of 1st century fort.

The success of this policy is dependant on longer term commitment from United Utilities towards a programme of cutting and treatment of the soft rush.

POLICY C5: VANDALISM AND LITTER

Levels of vandalism and litter should be monitored for any long-term increase, and suitable procedures put in place to deal with any isolated incidents.

A programme of monitoring and protocol for reporting any incidents will be compiled by the FCRF.

POLICY C6: ILLEGAL METAL DETECTORING (NIGHT-HAWKING)

A protocol to report illegal metal detecting activity will be set up and anyone found using a detector onsite will be prosecuted through English Heritage. Avenues will be pursued to improve education on the damage caused by illegal metal detecting to archaeological sites.

The FCRF should work together with the local FLO and metal detectorists to promote a responsible attitude to detecting and reduce the likelihood of night-hawking. A programme of regular monitoring should be established those network to FCRF who regularly visit the site.

POLICY C7: VEHICLE USE

Heavy vehicles should not be used across the site, although quad bikes can be used for stock management away from the main fort area. No vehicles are allowed within the main fort area except with permission from English Heritage. Trial bike use will be prohibited across the entire scheduled area.

4.5 Preserving the Offsite Evidence

These are a series of issues which could potentially threaten the significance of the offsite collections. Currently the finds are distributed across four different repositories without access to a centralised catalogue.

Public Access to Finds

The only place where finds from Castleshaw are on permanent public display is Saddleworth Museum; although separate pieces are included in temporary displays at Gallery Oldham and Manchester Museum. However, even if each of the various museums hosted a permanent exhibition, it would still not encompass the scope and variety of the full collection, which spans over a hundred years of investigation. As a consequence, public access and appreciation of the finds collection is severely restricted.

Research Access to Finds

All the separate collections are available for academic research. The curatorial staff are helpful and quick to respond to enquiries, but the absence of a centralised catalogue makes the location of material very difficult. Added to this, the need to visit four different institutions is inconvenient and costly and might limit further study (although really only Gallery Oldham and Manchester Museum have extensive collections).

Conservation and Storage

Curatorial staff at both Manchester Museum and Gallery Oldham, recognise the need for further conservation work to be undertaken on some items in the collections; in particular, wood stored at Manchester. In addition, there are issues with storage and, while both of the main collections were maintained in stable conditions, there were concerns about access, monitoring and recording.

Lost or Misplaced Finds

Some of the finds from the very early excavations have gone missing over the years. This has mainly been from private collections but there is the potential for some pieces to be mis-catalogued or mis-stored, particularly at the smaller museums where there is a necessary reliance on volunteers. Unfortunately, like a library book on the wrong shelf, a mis-catalogued or misplaced boxed find is, to all intents and purposes, lost.

Lost or Misplaced Archives

Like the finds collection, the site archive is also spread across a number of different places and many of the same issues apply. There is also a danger that the same level of importance is not being attributed to the site archive as to the finds, thus increasing the risk of loss. A certain amount of important documentary material is also held in private hands, most significantly Ken Booth's archive. However, Ken has made provision for the collection to eventually pass to Saddleworth Museum.

Many of those issues relating to the maintenance of the collections and archive derive from the fact that there is no central repository for the material. The ideal solution would be to bring all of the collections and archives together in one place; located as close to the monument as possible. Saddleworth Museum would be the perfect location for this but, unfortunately, storage and display facilities are just not available without considerable investment. Gallery Oldham would be another option, maintaining the local connection, but funding and storage space would also be an issue here, although in theory Manchester Museum would be agreeable to the transfer of its deposits.

Combined Finds Catalogue

A long-term solution obviously needs further exploration but in the short-term, a combined finds catalogue would solve some of the problems and could, if correctly approached, provide virtual access to the Castleshaw's finds for a wide audience (along the same lines as the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) site⁸). This would not require the same degree of funding as moving the collections. Much of the recording work could also be undertaken by members of the Friends (FCRF) as part of a training programme.

Conservation Assessment

A finds assessment of all the collections needs to be undertaken to evaluate conservation issues as a matter of some urgency. This could potentially be carried out at the same time as the preparation of the catalogue. Additional funding would need to be secured to pay for further conservation where necessary. There may also be some potential in launching a public amnesty for finds, possibly tied-up with the launch of an online catalogue. Local people would be encouraged to come in with family heirlooms found at the site. The provenance of such finds would be uncertain but could be useful in a broad sense. However, some care would need to be taken that this would not encourage night-hawking.

Problems with the archive collection are easier to rectify as it is much smaller than the finds collection. It is recommended that a digital copy of the various elements stored at each of the repositories is made as a permanent record and stored at gallery Oldham with the GMAU archive. The site archive should be catalogued alongside the finds collection. The catalogue and select items – such as pages from the finds book and photographs – should then be made available online.

Potential Discovery of New Spot Finds

There is a degree of potential that new finds might erode out of the soil along Waters Clough, or be found in mole hills or areas of disturbance. A procedure needs to be put in place to report these, probably using the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), although in the first instance the County Archaeologist would need to be informed. Again, care needs to be taken to ensure that any measures to encourage the reporting of finds does not inadvertently lead to an increase in night-hawking.

⁸ See PAS database > <http://finds.org.uk/database>

POLICY H1: PROTECTING THE COLLECTIONS

A suitably funded strategy will be put in place to address those issues relating to both the finds and archive collection.

In the short-term this would include the provision of an online finds catalogue and 'virtual museum' exhibit but in the long-term could potentially include a dedicated visitors' centre and finds repository at Saddleworth Museum.

POLICY H2: ASSESSING CONSERVATION NEEDS

All finds, starting with those identified as being of greatest risk, should be assessed in terms of further conservation requirement and suitable funding identified to address any issues.

The existing conservation issues should really be resolved before any further excavation is undertaken on-site

POLICY H3: ENSURING A GOOD FUTURE FINDS POLICY

A suitable programme for the storage, analysis and conservation of new finds needs to be established in advanced of any future excavation (or re-excavation) being undertaken.

POLICY H4: PROVISION FOR SPOT FINDS

A suitable procedure needs to be put in place for the recording and investigation of any spot finds found in association with the site.

4.6 Setting: Preserving the Historic Landscape

Signage Clutter

There is a considerable amount of signage across the site and, arguably, much more than is strictly necessary. This is a particular problem at the south-west entrance to the site but is also an issue elsewhere. There are a range of footpath signs, fingerposts and way markers, many of which repeat the same information. The issue is exacerbated by the amount of other 'street' furniture in the area including telephone cables, farm hoppers and feeders. It is recommended that the signage be rationalised to cut down on the extraneous clutter. The wooden fingerposts are by far the most attractive and fitting of the signs, given the nature of the environment, and should adopted across the site.

The existing information plinths are designed to fit in with the natural landscape but are still very visible, which is largely the intention. However, it is not recommended that any new panels be introduced as they do detract something from the sense of place. A further panel could be provided next to the car park but this would incur an increased risk of vandalism.



Plates 34 & 35: signage clutter en-route from the main car park and the existing post and rail fence used across the site

Fencing

The wooden post and rail fencing used across the site is in a good state of repair (although there were a few broken rails). It is generally in keeping with the landscape although not a traditional form of boundary - the erection of gritstone walling would be both impractical and introduce a 'new' feature into the landscape. However, one area of concern is the fencing on the approach to the site from the car park, which is currently post and barbed wire. The nature and condition of this fence does not create a good first impression for visitors and consideration should be given to replacing it with the same type of fence as used within the scheduled area. Any new fencing within the scheduled area should also follow this same design, although monument consent would be necessary for any change in the number or location of posts.

An assessment of the condition of the fences should be undertaken as part of the periodic site monitoring, and any broken rails replaced.

Potential Setting Issues

Any new development either in, or within the vicinity of the forts, or the wider Castleshaw valley, could potentially have an impact on the setting of the heritage asset (PPS5 HE9, H10). This would include the erection of wind turbines; planting of trees (particularly plantation blocks); housing or agricultural developments; hydro schemes; pipelines; overhead electricity supply (refurbishment & new); telecommunication equipment and cabling; changes in landscape character and farming land-use; extensions to the Castleshaw Centre and any development work associated with the nearby farmsteads. In such cases, a monument's setting is not bound spatially by the views and features from within the site, or the immediate vicinity, but would include any elements which might affect our understanding of the heritage asset. These might include:

- Other Roman sites in the areas (roads, signal stations and forts);
- Transport routes (the Roman road, turnpikes, Dry Croft Lane and other related routes);
- Pattern of settlements (Castle Shaw, Castle Hill Cote, Bleak Hey Nook, Grange and other settlements in the area);
- Pattern and form of field systems (current boundaries and old earthwork banks);
- Landscape character and landuse;
- Hydrology (cloughs, leats, weirs and mill races etc);
- Built heritage (form, design, scale, materials of the buildings within the wider regional context); and
- Social/economic implications (development of community including clothier housing, Castle Shaw and even the reservoirs).

Plans for any development or changes in landuse through agri-environment schemes must be discussed well in advance with the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist.

Increased Use

An increase in the number of people using the site may pose a threat to the setting. At the moment, the secluded and peaceful quality of the forts is an important element of their character and attracting more visitors could detract from this.

POLICY S1: ADDRESSING SETTING ISSUES

No factor shall adversely impact the setting of the site. The introduction of any new element which might adversely affect setting should be discussed in advance with the County Archaeologist - this includes tree planting, agri-environment schemes, erection of new structures, demolition or conversion of existing structures, creation of tracks, paths, roads, construction or refurbishment of pipelines or overhead lines, telecommunication works and the extraction of stone or mineral.

POLICY S2: DEALING WITH CLUTTER

Existing signage will be rationalised and no new signs or 'street' furniture will be introduced without due consideration of the impact on setting.

POLICY S3: LIMITING THE IMPACT OF VISITOR NUMBERS ON THE SITE*The significance of the cultural setting of the site - in particular its 'sense of place'- must always be considered in balance with any plans to increase visitor numbers and enhance interpretation.*

4.7 Protecting the Natural Environment

Hay Meadow – Daycroft Field

Any archaeological investigation across Daycroft Field could result in disturbance to the existing soil structure of the area and the species diversity of the unimproved hay meadow. Although not specifically protected by any formal designation, unimproved upland meadows are a UK Biodiversity Priority Habitat and this resource is limited in the geographical area.

The types of action which are likely to affect the interest of the site include stripping of turves and excavation of trenches. Any proposals to either change the current agricultural management or to undertake extensive habitat creation such as tree planting would also damage the existing ecology interest.

Investigative works on the field should include a plan to stripe turves and reserve for reinstatement and the management of trench spoil either to areas of low value or onto protective matting to avoid contamination of the soil structure and seed bank. Spoil storage should be for the minimum length of time and if required for an extended period (> 4 months) should be located off site. If reseeded is needed post excavation the method as described in Section 4.4 (vegetation and grazing issues) should be used.

Water Course and Water Vole - Waters Clough

The stream in Waters Clough, as it flows along the boundary of the site has potential to support water vole, a UK Biodiversity Priority Species protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. Any works proposed on the water course, marsh habitat adjacent to the water course and within 5m of either of these habitats could impact both the protected species and its protected habitat. Work should be preceded by a detailed survey to ascertain the presence/absence of the species and the extent of activity. If water voles are found to be present then a water vole mitigation plan will be required in order to avoid breaches of the wildlife legislation. Advice will need to be sought as to whether a licence from Defra would be required to undertake the proposed works. The level of mitigation and licensing will be determined by the nature of the works proposed and further information can be found at www.naturalengland.org.uk

The stream structure may also support white-clawed crayfish protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations. The probability of the presence of this species is considered low, but investigations and habitat suitability assessment for this species should precede all planned works to the fabric of the water course or any remnant archaeological features, such the weir.

Reinstatement of worked areas should be allowed to naturally re-colonise if the areas are not extensive. Care should be taken to prevent the spread of Himalayan Balsam, an invasive species.

Monitoring for the first season post works should be undertaken and all specimens of Himalayan Balsam should be pulled by hand prior to flowering.

Breeding Birds

The site supports breeding by a number of species of birds which are UK Biodiversity Priority Species (Skylark, lapwing and reed bunting). All birds are protected during the breeding season and especial attention should be given to the UK BAP Species. Some of the species that are present on the site are ground nesting species, which have well camouflaged eggs that are often laid in shallow scrapes rather than nests. The ground nests can easily be overlooked and trampled/destroyed if care is not taken to avoid them. Ground nesting species are likely to be found in both the fort complex and on Daycroft Field.

Any site investigations which involve the stripping of vegetation and/or clearance of trees or scrub should be planned to **commence** outside the bird breeding season (March – July inclusive) in order that the vegetation is removed before the breeding season starts. If it is not possible to avoid this then the area of works should be surveyed by a suitably qualified individual, in order to plan works away from active nests or to postpone works until after the birds have fledged (skylark, reed bunting, meadow pipit and other passerine species) or hatched (lapwing – which hatch nidifugous young who can run as soon as hatched).

If management by mowing is proposed for small areas of the rush vegetation, this should also be undertaken outside the bird breeding season.

Dogs

Unleashed dogs are a potential threat to ground breeding birds as well as sheep and lambs. Currently there appears to be no restriction on dogs owners using the land but establishing and publicising a policy would be advisable, particularly in the spring. There could also potentially be an outside threat to the archaeology from dogs digging into animal burrows etc. To avoid any issues it might be advisable to insist that all dogs are kept on leads across the whole scheduled area at all times.

POLICY E1– PROTECTING THE ECOLOGY OF THE SITE

Plans for the protection of protected species and important plant and animal communities will be integrated into any management interpretation and access plans for the site and close communication maintained with the Local Authority ecologists at Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) or consultant ecologist if appointed or as required.

Any proposed restoration schemes or developments will take full account of statutory obligations and planning policy guidance.

POLICY E2– CONTROL OF DOGS ONSITE

All dogs are to be kept on a lead across the scheduled site at all times

A sign should be put up at the car parking area informing owners to keep their dogs on a lead but care should be taken to avoid adding to the existing on-site signage clutter.

4.8 User Requirements: Managing the Expectations of Existing and Potential Users

People visit Castleshaw for a variety of reasons, each with slightly different requirements and expectations, some of which could potentially bring them into conflict with other groups. The table below summarises the main groups, their key interests and potential conflicts

Table 5: Current User Requirements and Potential Conflicts

User	Requirements	Potential Conflicts
United Utilities (Landowner)	Maintain good working relationship with tenants Meet statutory requirements in terms of maintenance Maintain reputation as a responsible landowner with a strong interest in the local community. Good land management policy Public liability (Health and Safety threats minimised)	More people visiting the site increases H&S concern. Increase in visitor numbers could come into conflict with archaeology and ecology. Increase in visitor numbers and/or interpretation come bring landowner into conflict with tenant farmer.
Tenant Farmer	Stock grazing Vehicle access to manage stock Need to feed stock in winter	Any changes to grazing regimes and/or stock numbers could cause conflicts with ecology/archaeology. Vehicle use is causing some damage. Increase in visitor numbers (especially with dogs) could disturb stock and cause problems with increase in litter, dog dirt or vandalism
English Heritage (Natural England)	To protect and curate the archaeology and ecology of the site and ensure legislative and planning requirements are met. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.	Potential conflict with landowner and tenant (although relationship currently good)

	<p>To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the site.</p> <p>To ensure the successful future management of the site.</p>	
Oldham MBC	<p>As above.</p> <p>Encourage community health and social integration of excluded groups.</p>	As above
Castleshaw Centre	<p>Safe and easy access to the site.</p> <p>Good public access across the site.</p> <p>Access to interpretation both on and off site.</p>	<p>Potential conflict with other users regarding group visits and noise levels of activities etc.</p> <p>Increase in visitor numbers could see a rise in traffic which would be an issue for the Centre.</p> <p>Increase in numbers could threaten isolated character of site.</p> <p>Increase in Health & Safety concerns</p>
Archaeological and Historical Societies and non-professional archaeologists	<p>Road access and car parking.</p> <p>Good public access to and across site.</p> <p>Advice and support with regards excavation, survey and conservation.</p> <p>Access to interpretation both on and off site.</p> <p>Active involvement in management and monitoring.</p> <p>Access to collections</p>	<p>Potential conflict with tenant regarding access (more perceived than real).</p> <p>Potential conflict with Castleshaw Centre (though existing relationship good).</p> <p>Potential conflict with museums and other holders of archive material</p>
Walkers	<p>Road access and car parking.</p> <p>Good public access across the site.</p> <p>Access to interpretation both on and off site.</p> <p>Responsible disposal of litter and dog dirt.</p> <p>Picnic facilities</p>	<p>Potential conflict with tenant regarding access (more perceived than real)</p> <p>Large numbers of cars could be an issue for other users.</p> <p>Potential conflict with Castleshaw Centre</p> <p>Additional 'street' furniture</p>
Disabled visitors	<p>Disabled car parking adjacent to site</p> <p>Wheelchair access to main fort area</p> <p>Access to interpretation both on and off site.</p>	<p>Potential conflict with other users over car parking access</p> <p>Conflict in terms of positioning of on-site interpretation material</p>
Mountain bikers and horse riders	<p>Good public access across the site.</p> <p>Access to interpretation both on and</p>	<p>Potential conflict with English Heritage, landowner and tenant</p>

	off site. Safe place/facility to secure bikes at entrance whilst visiting site.	farmer in terms of site damage. Additional 'clutter' at site entrance.
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Good Communication

The degree of potential conflict between groups is relatively minimal but any failure to meet the requirements of a key users group, and subsequent issues arising from this, is a threat to the successful future conservation and management of the site. One of the main ways to avoid such conflicts is to create a forum for discussion which includes all of the main stakeholders. The Castleshaw Working Party already fulfils this function and, together with the FCRF, will be central to the implementation of any management plan and long-term maintenance strategy. The tenant farmer, David Hirst, should also be encouraged to join. Any major issues which cannot be resolved by the steering group might require wider consultation. In many cases, conflict generally comes about because users are simply unsure of the correct procedure where there are areas of sensitive archaeology/ecology. This Plan should go a considerable way to alleviating this and will hopefully provide a springboard for further discussion.

Encouraging new users

Enhancing the public's enjoyment and understanding of the country's heritage assets, like Castleshaw, is a primary development strategy at both national and regional levels. There are measures which would improve the appeal of the site to a wider audience but these would need to be balanced with maintaining the sense of isolation so characteristic of the site, as well as the requirements of existing users.

Table 6: Potential users

User	Requirements	Potential Conflicts
Schools, colleges and universities– outside of the Castleshaw Centre	Road access and car parking Mini bus/coach access and parking? Good public access to and across the site Access to interpretation both on an offsite. Good follow-up material. Access to collections Disabled access Toilets? Picnic area facilities	Potential conflict with tenant regarding access and increased visitor numbers Large numbers of cars could be an issue with other users. Any increase in facilities might have an impact on setting. Increase in numbers and larger groups could threaten isolated character of site. Increase in health & safety concerns Conflicts with Castleshaw Centre activities. Potential conflict with museums and

		other holders of archive material
Walk for health initiatives	Road access and car parking Good public access to and across the site. Disabled parking and access. Access to interpretation both on and off site. Good communication with local doctors' surgeries and health centres.	Potential conflict with tenant regarding access (more perceived than real) Potential conflict with Castleshaw Centre (though existing relationship good)
Younger families	Road access and car parking. Good, safe public access to and across the site. Access to interpretation (suitable for younger children) both on an offsite. Activities timetable. Picnic area facilities.	Large numbers of cars could be an issue with other users. Increase in numbers could threaten isolated character of site. Limited facilities available

There are not perceived to be any major issues with encouraging these new user groups and both existing and potential users would all benefit from improvements to site presentation and interpretation. Attracting users from a broader geographic area and/or targeting excluded groups would need further consideration, although a large increase in visitor numbers might not really be desirable since it could comprise significance and stretch the capacity of existing facilities. Instead, specific events might be designed to target a wider audience at key points, like the National Heritage Open Days.

POLICY U1: ENSURING THE NEEDS OF EXISTING USERS

The Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts will continue to provide an opportunity for all users to become directly involved in ensuring the future of the monument, providing a forum for discussion and input into decision-making.

POLICY U2: ENSURING THE NEEDS OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY

Other online public heritage forums will be used to encourage comments from the more general community on any key issues.

A 'Castleshaw's discussion forum' should be a key element to be considered in the design of any dedicated website.

POLICY U3: ATTRACTING NEW USERS

Measures will be explored to attract new users to the site without compromising the cultural significance of forts and their unique 'sense of place'.

POLICY U4: IMPROVING CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

In accordance with Policy U3, and working with the Castleshaw Centre, opportunities will be explored to form links with local schools, colleges and universities to promote the educational value of the site.

There would include consultation with teachers regarding input into future improvements to interpretational material.

4.9 Access: Getting There and Moving Around

Road Access

There is good road access to the site and car parking facilities, considered to be more than suitable to cope with current demand. Road signage to the site from local through routes is, however, very poor and was one of the issues commented on during public consultation. Oldham MBC should consider erecting brown 'heritage' road signs on the main approach routes to direct people towards the forts, particularly coming from Uppermill. However, care should be taken not to add to the signage clutter within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Access around the site

Tracks and footpaths around the site are generally good with few signs of erosion, but this needs to be monitored, particularly if there is an increase in visitor numbers. No additional tracks are recommended.

Public Access

There is good public access across the site, although some people did comment that they were unsure if they were allowed to cross farmland and felt a little intimidated. However the site is well signposted.

Health and Safety

There are some trip issues associated with the old excavation trenches and uneven ground on the north side of the site. In general there are no health and safety issues beyond those of other sites of this nature.

Disabled Access

Under compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) reasonable provision must be made to provide disabled access to heritage assets. An impaired mobility parking bay is available at the north-eastern entrance to the site, along Bleak Hey Nook Lane, although this is not formalised or marked in any way. A nearby field gate provides access into the main site enclosure without the need to negotiate the footpath stile, and there is a good footpath leading from this up onto the fortlet. The main problem is availability of information on disabled facilities. In the short term, the

arrangement for impaired mobility should be formalised and facilities advertised on the council website. Whether the bay should be limited specifically to disabled parking would need further consideration. Given the current levels of use there does not appear to be a problem, and limiting it to those with a disabled parking permit would cause a problem for those with limited impairment for whom the walk up from the main car park is just too far.

The existing exhibition panels were designed to be at a height appropriate for wheelchair users. Since their erection, erosion around the base of the stone plinth has resulted in the formation of a small step. Application of a local crushed stone aggregate and a top-dressing of seeded soil should resolve this issue and provide smoother access. Consideration should also be given to increasing the pitch of the panels slightly to make them easier to read and also aid water run off.

Access to the northern half of the site is difficult and compromised by the uneven and marshy ground. Consolidation work in this area would improve access for all. Daycroft Field is not easily accessible for wheelchair users but there is not a great deal to see in this area of the site. In general, consideration should be given to improving online interpretation to provide virtual access to the site for those who cannot physically visit the forts.

Facilities

Currently there are no provisions for toilets at Castleshaw. Given the size of the site, its setting and the short duration of stay of most users, it is not considered necessary to provide toilet facilities. Arrangement for facilities for specific events can be negotiated as required. The Castleshaw Centre might be amenable to their facilities being used by local school parties visiting the site independently; although this would need to be agreed in advance on a case-by-case basis

There are well maintained picnic facilities and litter bins at the car park

Intellectual Access

The Saddleworth Historical Society, Saddleworth Archaeological Trust and Oldham MBC have already done a great deal to promote public interest in the forts, producing articles, exhibitions, heritage trails and conducting guided walks. This provides a great platform from which to explore further opportunities to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the site.

POLICY A1: ROAD ACCESS, CAR PARKS AND SIGNAGE

Maintain good car park and safe road access while improving road signage to the site along the main approach routes.

POLICY A2: FOOTPATHS

The conditions of the current footpaths around the site should be maintained but no new paths

established.

POLICY A3: ACCESS AROUND THE SITE

The level of public access around the site will be maintained and improved where possible.

POLICY A4: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health & Safety provision will be regularly reviewed (annually) and measures taken to improve conditions in the northern half of the site.

POLICY A5: DISABLED ACCESS

All relevant stakeholders will work together to ensure that all those with disabilities have all reasonable access to the site, including the consideration of more innovative measures to extend the user experience.

POLICY A6: INTELLECTUAL ACCESS

Every effort will be made to promote and improve intellectual access to the forts.

4.10 Improving Interpretation and Presentation

There is a great deal of potential to improve the recreational and educational value of Castleshaw through improvements to presentation and interpretation. The lack of good interpretation material was one of the top three issues raised during public consultation, and the following section looks at various immediate and longer term options which could be implemented without compromising the site's unique character and setting.

Onsite Interpretations

The improvement of on-site interpretation would enormously benefit both existing and new users. At its simplest this would involve updating the onsite interpretation panels, a task which is already in hand with a new set of illustrated panels due to be erected in December 2011. These will replace the panels erected following the 1980s excavation which are now badly weathered. Consideration might also be given to placing an interpretation panel at the car park to encouraging people to walk up onto the monument. This could include information on other sites in the area, placing the forts in a wider landscape context. However, increased risk of vandalism in this area would need to be kept in mind when commissioning panel designs.

There is currently an appropriate number of panels onsite and any more would be in danger of detracting from the fort's setting but online options should be explored to inform on those aspects of the site not currently covered, including prehistory and ecology. The new display panels themselves will also almost certainly need replacing in the next twenty years, not least to include the findings of any future research excavation but also as they gradually deteriorate from weather damage. Careful

thought needs to go into the type of onsite presentation following any excavation of the fort area to ensure that additional information is displayed in a clear and engaging way but without threat to setting. There may be the need to increase the number of panels at this time but it is recommended that a review of all onsite display material is conducted in advance of this to determine the best way forward. However, it is felt that the present stone plinths do fit in well with the surrounding landscape and are designed to sustain the rigours of an upland environment.

Community Excavation

Potentially, the greatest single improvement to the interpretation of Castleshaw would be the consolidation and partial reconstruction of the Flavian fort to bring it up to the same standard as the Trajanic fortlet. The advantage of this would be three fold: first, it would provide a wonderful opportunity to get the local community directly involved in the excavation of the site; second, it would provide in-the-field training for volunteers and students of archaeology, and finally, it would improve access and the interpretation of the site for all future visitors.

An outline research agenda for further investigation is included in Appendix 7 and a staged approach, undertaking a period of excavation throughout the summer months over a number of seasons, is recommended. This would ensure that the maximum number of people could get involved with the project. Without the provision of labour through the old Manpower Services Commission, any winter excavation would require considerable funding commitments and might also have only limited community appeal, although a programme of survey work and/or finds processing over the winter months might have appeal and added interest. A summer programme of work might involve a period dedicated to providing training for university students followed by a phase of community excavation; although levels of training received across both groups should be of a similar high standard. The aims and focus of each season would need further discussion and planning and advice should be sought from the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist, Norman Redhead, who has considerable knowledge of the forts and surrounding area and practical experience of running excavations on the site.

In addition to a programme of focused excavation, various shorter term events might be considered, including further investigations of Burial Plek and test pitting of areas across the hamlet (dependent on owner's permissions) as well along Waters Clough. These are all discussed in the research strategy but might be run as weekend 'Big Dig' type community events. Any such programme of work must be carried out according to a sound archaeological methodology and, again, advice must be sought in advance from the County Archaeologist.

The progress of excavation could be reported on the website as a daily blog and depending upon the results of the work, an annual lecture on work undertaken during the summer season could be established as part of an autumn/winter programme.

Reconstruction and Presentation of the Physical Evidence

The aim of the proposed excavations works would ultimately be to restore the fort back to the condition it was prior to the Edwardian excavations, although a certain amount of reconstruction work should also be undertaken to make the site more accessible and comprehensible for visitors.

Today, more traditional forms of on-site reconstruction are not generally recommended as good interpretation or conservation practice. There is obviously a considerable cost element in both their construction and maintenance but primarily it is because they present a 'fixed' idea of a site at a certain point in time; an idea which new research may later find to be incorrect. Updating reconstruction to incorporate changes in our knowledge is frequently costly and time consuming. At best, many of these sites end up looking very dated but at worse they create a completely misleading interpretation of the past. A classic example of a Roman fort reconstruction is Saalburg, reconstructed over 100 years ago, which is now hopelessly out of date, given the extent of new research over the intervening period, but there are also examples of other sites closer to home.

'We can provide the visitor - either real or virtual - with the primary evidence, which is generally not extensive (and certainly far from complete), and invite them to build their own Roman tower, fortlet or fort. We can open minds to our own special problems, not least that there is usually no one correct interpretation.'

David Breeze 'Presenting Roman Military Sites to the Public' (Breeze 2008, 144)

Modern conservation policy is now instead based on the philosophy that restoration should stop at the point where conjecture begins and that archaeological remains should remain accessible for re-examination and re-interpretation in the future (Breeze 2008). Given that Castleshaw was a timber and earth fort, and that the only evidence which remains are the footprint of structures, any restoration would involve a considerable amount of guesswork and would not be desirable or likely to receive Scheduled Monument Consent. However, modern technology allows us to create a virtual world providing ample opportunities to explore ideas of what the fort might have looked like and, with various smart-phone apps, these are now becoming more portable. Such virtual reconstructions have the added advantage that they are relatively quick and cheap to update as new information becomes available.

Nevertheless, although a large reconstruction would not be suitable, a degree of redefinition of the fort is recommended as part of the consolidation works. The approach taken by the GMAU as part of the restoration of the fortlet has provided a successful model which should, with some modifications, be employed across the whole site. It ensure a balance between the need to create an engaging visitor display whilst at the same time blending in with the surrounding environment and maintaining the natural beauty of the site.

Following the re-excavation and recording of the old trenches across the fortlet they were in-filled using material from the old spoil tips and new sub-surface drainage was installed. The whole area was then sown with dark green, acid tolerant grass, typical of high Pennine pastures (Walker 1989, 2). This work did not intrude onto the main fort area except for the re-cutting of one of the fortlet ditches to give an indication of the original alignment, but this was only to a depth of 50cm and did not extend beyond the plough soil into the Roman deposits (Redhead *pers. com.*). A similar overall approach is recommended for the main fort area. The grass sward blends in with the surrounding landscape but is distinct enough to clearly demarcate the fort area, although rougher grassland needs to be preserved around the edges of the site and there must be no impact on the habitat rich hay meadow to the south.

In addition, a degree of redefinition of the ramparts should also be considered. This would serve to outline the footprint of the fort and hugely improve the general interpretation and understanding of the site. It would also be important to clearly mark the interface between existing ground surface levels and any new soil added to the ramparts, this could be achieved by laying down a layer of sand prior to reconstruction, so allowing the current fort profile to be restored if desired. Alternatively, sheep fleeces rather than sand have been used successfully on other moorland sites, but an artificial membrane, like Terram, should be avoided as this has a tendency to erode out, looking unsightly and causing erosion issues.

Logistically, the main problem with this approach would be the provision of enough soil to both backfill the old trenches and build up the ramparts. There are considerably more old trenches across the fort than were across the fortlet and a degree of attrition has meant that the soil from the old spoil tips might not be enough to accomplish the backfilling let alone any reconstruction work, necessitating importing material onto the site. The GMAU work was also all undertaken by hand, whereas the partial re-building of the ramparts will necessitate the use of a machine; however, suitable safeguards and limitation can be put in place to mitigate against any potential damage.

Within the fort interior, marking out the layout of the former buildings would help improve visitor interpretation but leaving open excavations is not advised. This not only damages and destroys the archaeological evidence over time but also requires constant maintenance. Again, any mortaring stonework (were it to be found) is not advisable as it can not be easily reversed. The GMAU devised an ingenious method to outline the fortlet layout by using low profile mounds of lime rich soil planted with lighter grasses typical of the limestone dales to pick out the building forms (Walker 1989, 2). This was designed to be low maintenance and worked quite well as long as stock were grazed across the fortlet to keep the native vegetation down. However, in the intervening period native species have re-established themselves and the outlines are no longer clearly visible. The method is still valid and does provide a display that is sensitive to the area, is relatively cheap to construct and alter, and is completely reversible. The limestone grasses would require maintenance

though which could potentially be a job the FCRF could undertake. While the variations in vegetation is no longer clearly evident the low mounds are still visible, and one option might be instead to focus on these, using the same acid tolerant grass as elsewhere on the site but raising the mound profiles.

The subsequent presentation programme will obviously need further discussion but one of the difficulties inherent in any physical presentation on site is that no method is maintenance free and displays will need periodic renewing. As such, available funding for presentation might be more wisely spent on investing in alternative 'virtual' methods of reconstruction that require minimum maintenance to remain fresh and exciting, although the two should not be considered mutually exclusive.

Online Interpretation

These days, the majority of people have some form of internet access, either at home, school or at local libraries. The internet provides a wonderful opportunity to improve the public's understanding and enjoyment of the site without damaging its unique sense of place. A dedicated Castleshaw website would act as a hub for a range of material appealing to all ages. The priority should be to aim to get some website presence online as soon as possible, but consideration should also be given to ensuring that this site can be expanded and added to in the future.

The website might feature:

- **History:** background information on the history of the site, covering all periods. This section would aim to look at the specific detail of the forts but also aim to set the site in its wider context.
- **History of excavations:** a look at excavations at Castleshaw through the years and the various people involved. This area would also include a look at the development of archaeological methodology and include schools activities. Those involved in the 1980s excavations might be asked to share their memories, possibly a 'day-in-the-life' of a digger – the trials of wind, rain and mud!
- **Ecology:** A look at the ecology of the site and how it is managed.
- **Reconstructions and 'fly-throughs':** a virtual model of the site, potentially with the option of downloading a 3D version model on a smart-phone to take out on site.
- **Downloadable maps and tours:** a simple downloaded file showing an advised route around the site and providing key information (including possible simple reconstructions) at each point – this could be tailored for various age groups. Heritage tours of the wider area including Castleshaw as a stop off point, these could be designed according to theme (eg. 'Roman's in the North West') or area (eg. 'Saddleworth Heritage') and potentially allied with existing heritage trails published by Oldham MBC and the Saddleworth Historical Society.

- **Downloadable guided tours:** ⁹ slightly more difficult to produce, these are tours which can be downloaded as MP3 files and taken out on site. They can be adapted to appeal to various groups and in the simplest form, could be an audio version of the above tours, or with a little more imagination, re-enactments of life in the Roman fort told by a Roman auxiliary; such tours can be played on most mobile phones or MP3 players.
- **Educational activities and teacher's pack:** various curriculum based activities packs available to download from the website. These could be produced in partnership with the Castleshaw Centre.
- **Events and news:** programme of special events and news, as well as a discussion forum dealing with management and maintenance issues.
- **Online catalogue:** link to the online finds collection catalogue and other research sources.

Other Activities and Events

Various events are already organised at the site including re-enactments and guided walks. Other events which might appeal more to adults rather than children might include:

- **Travelling theatre performances:** The Lord Chamberlain's Men and other groups regularly tour heritage sites in the summer and the fortlet would be a great venue for this especially if Julius Caesar or Anthony and Cleopatra was on the play bill!
- **All Hallows Eve:** there are reputedly a number of ghosts at Castleshaw and an event around this time could prove popular, maybe an evening ghost tour or vigil.
- **Fireworks Night:** a great place to view local fireworks and potentially raise awareness and funds for future projects (although no fireworks on-site).
- **Roman Festivals:** events tied in with various Roman festivals throughout the year¹⁰.

All events of course would be very dependent on the caprices of the unpredictable Pennines weather.

Visitors' Centre

Undoubtedly, there is considerable public demand for a visitors' centre on or near the site which would house a permanent exhibition of the Saddleworth finds and provide access to other resource material. The option of a permanent onsite building was explored but even with careful design it was felt that this would not be in keeping with the 'edge of empire' feeling of the site setting and would involve considerable financial commitments in terms of staffing and/or maintenance. Options for an offsite facility would, therefore, seem most suitable.

⁹ See the North York moor's 'Out of Oblivion' website for examples > http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/audio_lowerwharfe.asp

¹⁰ See the Roman Colosseum website for a brief description of the main festivals throughout the year > <http://www.roman-colosseum.info/roman-life/roman-festivals.htm>

The nearby Castleshaw Centre had been suggested but there is currently no space available to house a permanent exhibition as well as issues related to child security and safety. However, the centre manager would consider a new facility being built elsewhere on the property (Faulconbridge *pers. com.*) if appropriate funding was secured. Other options for a centre nearby are also being explored. Further afield Saddleworth Museum or Gallery Oldham have been considered but the distance from the site might be an issue for some users. There are also constraints in terms of space and storage with neither sites having the existing capacity to house a permanent facility. However, given that Saddleworth is the most local Museum this is currently the preferred option to house a dedicated visitor's centre and storage facility for the Castleshaw finds collection.

The development of such a centre is a long term aim, requiring considerable planning and funding but there are shorter term improvements which could be put in place in the interim. A temporary exhibition might be put together to tour around libraries and community centres in the area, providing access to material for those without an internet connection. Such an exhibition would require updating and some degree of maintenance but would be relatively cheap to produce. Alongside this, a finds handling collection should be put together for local schools.

Programme of Improvements

There is obviously a great deal to discuss regarding the future interpretation of the site and much of this will depend on locating suitable funding. A phased approach is, therefore, recommended which would see some improvements being put in place almost immediately and then other options rolled out as funds become available:

Short Term (within the next 1-2 years)

Website (including teacher's packs, online activities, downloadable walks and MP3 tours)
Programme of activities
Touring exhibition
New interpretation panels (already completed)
Small-scale targeted test pitting

Medium Term (within the next 5 years)

Community/ training excavation and field survey
Degree of re- construction of the ramparts to define outline
Improved access (direct & online) to collections

Long Term (within the next 5 to 10 years)

Permanent visitor centre (new build) to house exhibition displays and finds collection.

This CWP, working together with the Friends will need to produce an Interpretation Plan which will prioritise those various options outlined above and identify funding sources and vehicle for implementation. An outline plan and costs have been included in the CMP Management Plan.

POLICY I1: IMPROVING SITE INTERPRETATION

A staged Interpretation Plan will be produced to enhance the educational value and presentation of the Castleshaw forts

4.11 Improving Our Understanding: Research Strategy

A number of gaps remain in our knowledge of Castleshaw's past and these have been highlighted at the end of each appropriate section in the 'Understanding' chapter. A research strategy designed to address some of these gaps and inform a programme of future research is included in Appendix 7.

4.12 Ownership and Funding

Issues relating to ownership and responsibility are potentially a major risk to the future management of the site. Most issues generally arise from mis-communication or a lack of clarity in terms of responsibility. Maintaining good communication between the members of the Castleshaw Working Party and other key stakeholders, should mean most of those risks identified above can be dealt with promptly and that any future problems can be similarly resolved.

Providing funding to secure a programme of improvements will be a key to the success of any future Management Plan. A variety of options might be explored including Heritage Lottery Funding¹¹ (Heritage Grants, Your Heritage Grants, Young Roots Funds and Skills for the Future), English Heritage grants, Natural England HLS schemes, and the National Heritage Memorial Fund¹²; as well as NGOs like the Charles Hayward Foundation Heritage & Conservation Programme¹³ and local authority funding. Local fundraising should also be pursued through the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts.

POLICY OF1: MAINTAINING GOOD COMMUNICATION

A collaborative approach is needed to ensure that all key users (stakeholders) are involved in the long-term management of the site. As such the Castleshaw Working Party, reporting to the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts, will remain as a steering group acting as a forum for discussion on future decision-making and the resolution of any existing or potential conflicts.

¹¹ Citing online reference 'Heritage Lottery Funding' >

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/programmes.asp>, accessed on 22/09/10

¹² Citing online reference 'The National Heritage Memorial Fund' > <http://search.hlf.org.uk/nhmfweb/aboutthenhmf>, accessed 22/09/10

¹³ Citing online reference 'Charles Hayward Foundation' > <http://www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk/>, accessed 22/09/10

POLICY OF3: INFORMED MANAGEMENT

All decision-makers, at all levels, need to be made aware of the significance, risks and issues discussed in this Plan and any subsequent updates.

POLICY OF4: FUNDING STRATEGY

A short and long term funding strategy needs to be explored to safeguard against any risk to the maintenance of the site and provide for improvement to site interpretation and outreach.

Review of Policies

In considering potential risks and issues to the future significance of the site, it is important to remember that these will not remain static but will reflect changes in use and condition over time. As such, any policies should not be seen as 'set in stone' but will need to be flexible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of the site. These should be reassessed at regular intervals and suitable policies added or amended as appropriate.

5.0. MANAGING THE FUTURE: ACTION PLAN

Priorities 1= key conservation measures which should be actioned immediately, 2= important measure to be addressed within the next 2 years, 3 = longer term conservations measures. However, some priority 2 actions, whilst not immediately critical, would be easy to implement and might be undertaken sooner.

The following Action Plan outlines those tasks identified in Section 4 'Protecting Significance'. All proposals will, of course, be dependant on securing adequate funding but where possible some indication of cost has been included, although at this stage these are very loose estimates.

Plan no.	Task	How	Priority	Notes	Outline Costs
Managing and Protecting the asset					
1	Agree programme of consolidation for the Flavian fort	Agree strategy to be undertaken with English Heritage and United Utilities and secure necessary consents.	1	See below for planning further excavation.	TBC
2	Explore ways to improve communication between stakeholders	Produce a list of concrete improvements that can be made to increase good communication, might include online forum as well as inviting other key parties to join the CWP/FCRF	1	Improvements in communication might include plans for regular emails or telephone communications as well as online information like a contacts list. Identify single point of contact for communication and dissemination	Negligible
3	Establish Funding Strategy	Formulation of a funding strategy to secure money to manage the long-term future of the site and implementation of Interpretation Plan.	1	A range of funding bodies might be approached including HLF and English Heritage. Need to agree who will responsible for co-ordinating	
4	Address any existing areas of erosion	Most exposed areas can be filled in with soil from outside the scheduled area and then dressed with a seeded mix. Some protection might need to be put in place until new vegetation is established.	2		< £1000
5	Agree strategy to deal with vegetation cover	United Utilities, tenant farmer and English Heritage need to agree a management strategy to deal with the soft rush. This is likely to be in regards to the type and levels of stock introduced periodically to crop the rush.	2		Negligible
6	Agree stock grazing policy	United Utilities, tenant farmer and English Heritage to agree a management strategy regarding grazing across the whole site. In particular to resolve those issues of stock feeding and vehicular access	2		Negligible
7	Establish procedures to	Establish a strategy to deal with emergency	2	Funding for this work should be separate from	<£500

	deal with vandalism and litter incidents	repair requirements as a result of vandalism or other unforeseen acts. This should identify a suitable contact point and potentially a fund to cover repairs. The fund would need to be reviewed on annual basis.		that allocated for consolidation work so that emergency repairs are not a drain on long-term consolidation plans. To cover site and car parking areas. Identify which organisation best-placed to manage this – Parish Council would be one option	Emergency fund
8	Improve signage	Rationalise onsite signage to remove clutter and discuss providing additional road signage to the site with Oldham MBC	2		Negligible
9	Establish an on-going timetable of monitoring to assess the condition of the site	Set up a quinquennial inspection programme to review the condition of the site and assess the success and suitability of repairs. Organise volunteers to maybe undertake intermediate reviews.	2	Identify which organisation best-placed to manage and coordinate this – could it be coordinated to take place at same time as EH monument inspections by Field Monument Wardens? Timetable should be set up but first review not scheduled until after any consolidation work.	Negligible
10	Form links with local detectorist groups through the FLO	CWP/CFRC should establish links with FLO and local groups and arrange talk on plans for the site and encourage responsible detecting.	3	Groups could potentially be involved in planning community excavation if this progresses	Negligible

Plan no.	Task	How	Priority	Notes	Outline Costs
Managing and Protecting the collections					
11	Undertake an assessment of existing material	Identify which collections need to be reviewed as part of informing excavation/consolidation strategy Agree high priority finds with curators and undertake conservation assessment. Identify funds for necessary conservation work and commission specialists	1		TBC
12	Establish overall collections policy	CWP to develop a long-term strategy regarding the Castleshaw collection	1	Strategy to include provision for any new finds resulting from further excavation and options to bring the collection together in one place.	TBC
13	Produce an online catalogue of the whole collection	Agree strategy with all curators involved. Identify potential size of the collection. Commission database design and identify	2	Aim should be to provide an online resource for research and public viewing.	TBC

		FCRF members to undertake work and programme of training.			
14	Scan and re-locate paper archive	Agree strategy with all curators involved. Identify potential size of the collection. Commission volunteers, equipment and premises to undertake work and programme of training. Secure necessary storage and cataloguing	2		TBC
15	Agree policy for reporting spot finds from Castleshaw valley area and the recording and collection of eroding material from within scheduled areas.	Discuss policy for reporting spot finds through contacts with FLO. Discuss policy for eroding material with English Heritage, GM County Archaeologist, landowner and tenant	3		Negligible

Plan no.	Task	How	Priority	Notes	Outline Costs
Improving Interpretation and Presentation					
16	Prepare site Interpretation Plan	CWP/FCRF to develop a long-term strategy regarding the Interpretation and Presentation of the site. This should identify prioritise, costs and potential funding avenues	1	An integrated scheme will be necessary to balance long term and short term requirements but those elements detailed below would be recommended as a minimum.	TBC
17	Develop a dedicated Castleshaw website	Review existing heritage sites and discuss requirements Commission specialist web designers Decide who writes text and compile required material Undertake design and period of public consultation Review and plan future phases of design Identify someone responsible for updates	1	In the short term this should be a simple site in order to get something online but thought should be given on expanding elements in the future. Identify which organisation(s) best-placed to host and manage this.	£2000-£5000
18	Undertake Community Excavation	Agree an excavation strategy with English Heritage, United Utilities and The GM County Archaeologist. Secure necessary permissions and funding Plan phases of excavation and prepare	1	There are obviously a whole range of other tasks which need to be undertaken and any project would require considerable planning and secured funding. See Research Strategy for suggested aims and	30 – 50k PA for a 4-6 week season

		necessary statement of methodology and research aims, including reporting and conservation policies. Secure works force (volunteers/students) Undertake work Ensure analysis, reporting, conservation and storage.		approach. With respect to costs this obviously depends on level of work, duration and number of seasons – if there were a number of volunteers and you were primarily opening up old trenches with only small targeted areas of new excavations then – for a six week season you are probably looking at about 30-35k for professional staff, travel, accommodation, welfare, plant plus 10-20k for post-exc – so you could work on basis of 50k / season.	Up to 250k for Full project TBC
19	Reconstruction of 1st century fort ramparts and internal layout	Agree strategy with English Heritage, United Utilities and the GM County Archaeologist. Secure necessary permissions and funding and produce methodologies. Secure contractor and ensure suitable archaeological monitoring	1	This very much links with those considerations above.	£2000 > £5000
20	Prepare events programme	FCRF to prepare rolling events programme to raise funds and awareness. Recruit a local volunteer from the Friends to co-ordinate the events programme	2	Explore the introduction of new events to	TBC
21	Produce online teaching pack	Discuss requirements with Castleshaw Centre staff and commission designer	2	Costs would be dependent on the range and extent of work	£1500 >£5000
22	Produce touring exhibition and handling collection	Agree on requirements and target audience Write or commission text and art work Agree programme of venues and arrange transport	2	As above but costs would include exhibition stands which are quite expensive. An alternative might be roller displays.	£1000 > £5000

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