

## **Early settlements<sup>1</sup>**

### Palaeolithic (c 500,000-8000 BC)

No records – largely glaciated

### Mesolithic (8000-4000 BC)

Becoming wooded.

Barraclough p. 57

“Other [Mesolithic] sites have been found to the west [of Marsden] on the Rossendale moors...

...where erosion of the post-Mesolithic peat overlying mineral soil has taken place and therefore lack secure stratified content.”

The Whitaker Museum in Rawtenstall has Mesolithic flints found on Great Hambledon Hill, Cribden, Hog Low Pike, Cowpe Lowe and Heald Moor. It is uncertain whether these represent settlements or objects dropped on routeways.

### Neolithic (4000-2500BC)

Development of agrarian society

Barraclough pp. 89-90

‘Neolithic arrowheads often occur in conjunction with Mesolithic finds and have a thin distribution over all the upland areas, both in the Central Pennines proper and in the Rossendale uplands. They mostly consist of leaf-shaped arrowheads and to a lesser degree transverse types, whose distribution is also compatible with that of the latter (and more frequently found) barbed-and tanged arrowheads of Bronze Age times.’

‘Some of the other items usually associated with Grooved Ware, such as....Duggleby adzes, also occur spasmodically within the Central Pennines...an adze near Bacup...’

The Whitaker museum exhibits Neolithic flints from Cribden, Knowl Hill and Cowpe Lowe. Again it is unclear whether these are dropped on routeways.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources include:

Landscape Strategy for Lancashire – Landscape Character Assessment’ document, Lancashire County Council 2004

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/landscape/landscapecharacass/co ver.asp>

Barraclough D, (2008), ‘Prehistoric Lancashire’

## **Bronze age (2500-750 BC)**

Climate gradually colder and wetter  
Metalworking and improved pottery/flint work

Barrowclough p 100 (early Bronze Age)

'In addition to the distribution of perforated axe hammers around Morecambe Bay there is a thin scattering of them in the Burnley, Rossendale and Macclesfield areas' [usually as stray finds, possibly related to routeways through the uplands] 'there is a notable concentration of these stone artefacts, and in particular of axe-hammers, the most numerous, along the southern flanks of the Rossendale Uplands... ' [possibly related to agricultural land on the periphery of marginal upland areas]

Barrowclough p. 117 (Bronze Age Burials)

Twice as many burial monuments occur west of the Pennine watershed than to the east, though the former does include a greater proportion of the total area...To the west, most burials occur round the edges of the Pennines proper and the Rossendale uplands, where there is a greater number at lower altitudes, all either on gravel terraces or on fluvio-glacial gravels as at Bolton.'

Hunt describes Bronze age burials along the southern edge of Rossendale in a linear pattern at a height of 1000-1100'OD.

Barrowclough p. 152-3 (Bronze age metalwork)

'Locally Bronze age metal work has been catalogued and its distribution considered. Davey identified 8 areas with statistically significant concentrations of artefacts...the Rossendale uplands, the Mersey and Irwell river basins...In the Late Bronze Age the upper reaches of the River Ribble valley form an important low-lying zone between the two major moors of Bowland and Rossendale...the uplands of Rossendale form a westward extension of the Pennines dissected by deep valleys, such as at Edgeworth, where a plastave was found, and the valleys cut by the Darwen and Calder Rivers. The concentration of Middle Bronze Age finds in this area suggests to Davey that its south-west facing shelves with access to upland pastures would have lent themselves to settlement and agriculture during this period.'

## **Iron age (750 BC-79 AD)**

Development of ironworking  
Development of settled, territorial society.  
Few visible remains

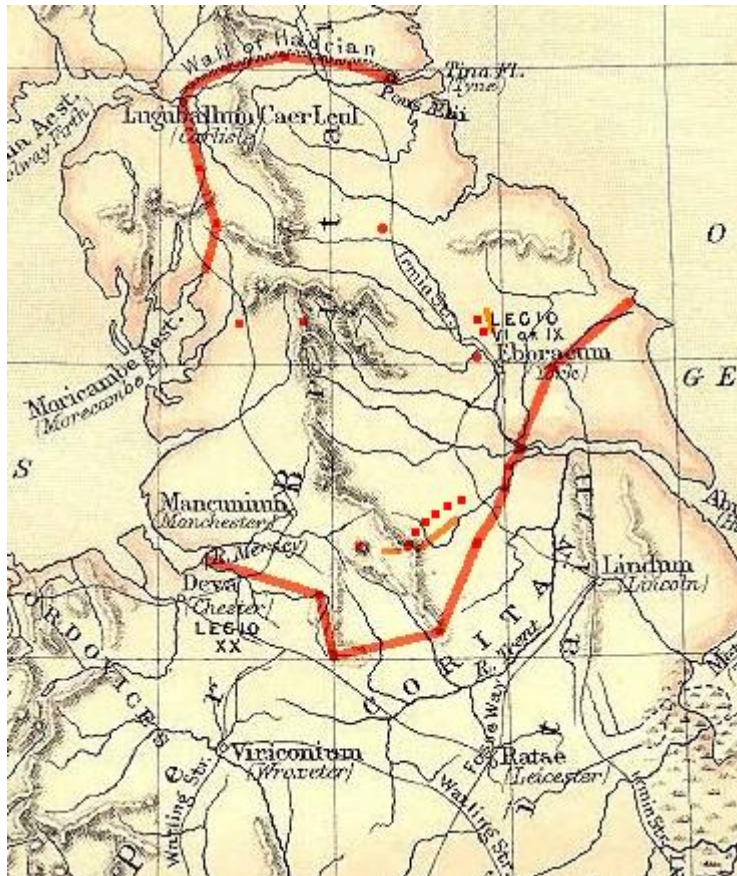
Barrowclough p. 199 (Iron Age)

'In the uplands, heather and sphagnum moss spread during the Iron Age, gradually reducing the area available for summer pasture, while a decline in temperature and increase in rainfall would also have steadily reduced the upper limit for cereal cultivation up to the second century BC. ..Deep Clough in Rossendale at 340m OD, has substantial clearance from about 350 BC to AD290 (c 2220-1750 BP).'

p. 210

'horn cores of *Bos longifrons*, the so-called "Celtic shorthorn" have been found from time to time within the upland peats as at Cowpe near Waterfoot in Rossendale.'

At the time of the roman invasion, the North West was settled by the Briganti. These are thought to be named after and to have worshipped Brigantia (Brigit, Bride). Said to have revolted against Roman occupation in AD 47, and in AD 55-56 and 69-70 under Venutius.. Partially subdued by Petillius Cerialis in AD 71-4 and finally by Agricola in AD 79.<sup>2</sup>



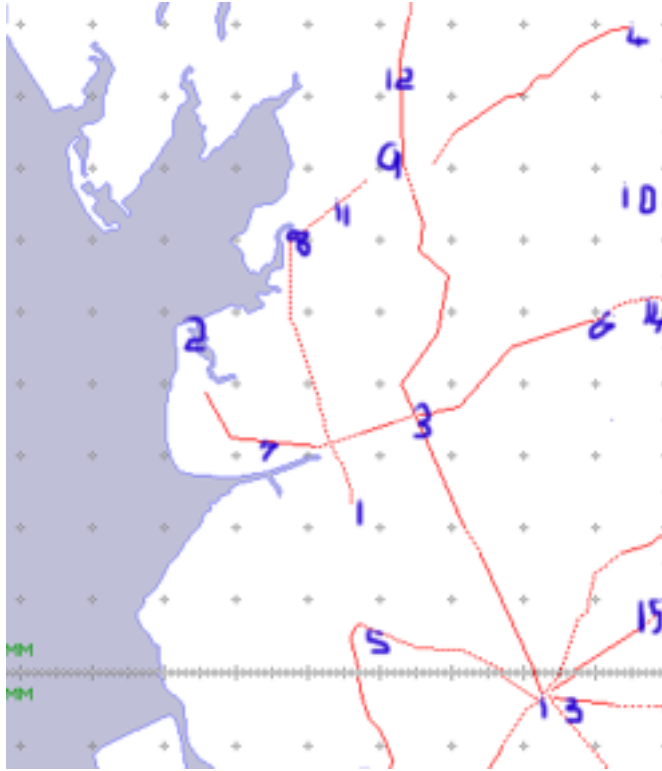
Postulated border of Brigantia at AD69. From “Brigantes Nation”<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Roman Britain Organisation. <http://www.roman-britain.org/tribes/brigantes.htm>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.brigantesnation.com/SiteResearch/RegionalSurveys/Brigantia/Brigantia.htm>

## Roman Britain (AD 79-410)

Little evidence of roman settlement in Rossendale: roman roads crossed from Manchester to Ribchester and along the Ribble Valley.



1.	Walton le Dale	major settlement
2. Portus Setantiorum settlement	nr Fleetwood	major
3. Bremetenacium Veleranorum settlement	Ribchester	minor
		auxiliary fort milestone
4. Virosidum settlement	Brough	minor
		auxiliary fort
5. Coccium settlement	Wigan	minor
6. Olenaium	Elstock, Skipton	auxiliary fort
7.	Kirkham	auxiliary fort
8. Calvinium	Lancaster	auxiliary fort shrine milestone
9.	Brougham	auxiliary fort
10.	Malham	temporary camp
11.	Artle Beak	milestone

12.	Hawking Hall	pottery kiln
13, Manucium	Manchester	tile kiln
14.	Kirkham	milestone
15. Rigodunum	Castleshaw	minor settlement
		auxiliary fort
		Villa
		auxiliary fort

(map data from Roman Britain Organisation. <http://www.roman-britain.org>)

## British, Saxon and Scandinavian period (AD 410-1066)

The Angles, Saxons and Jutes harassed Britain sporadically from 365 AD with a severe raid in 410 and the fall of Britain to the Saxons between 441-449. In Lancashire the main tribe was the Cumbri and in the late 5<sup>th</sup> century AD King Rheged's rule extended from Scotland through Cumbria to the Ribble. These lands were later incorporated into Northumbria with land south of the Mersey in Mercia and land between being fluidly held. The situation at AD 700 is summarised in the map below.<sup>4</sup>

During this period, conversion to Christianity occurred during the 7<sup>th</sup> century with St Cuthbert having a ministry in Cartmel, England developed a national identity and English emerged as a written language.



Viking raids started in AD 793 and concentrated on the north and west of England in the first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Danelaw was

<sup>4</sup> Sean Miller, Anglo-Saxons.net, <http://www.anglo-saxons.net/hwaet/>  
<http://www.regia.org/history.htm>  
Maps S.D. Keynes, <http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/sdk13/RPMaps/MapPolDev.jpg>

established at the treaty of Wedmore in 878, with Lancashire being subject (perhaps insecurely) to Danelaw.<sup>5</sup>



Further Norse excursions in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century into Lancashire and Cumbria from Ireland and the Western Isles led to the area being under Norse control.



<sup>5</sup> Source of Danelaw map unknown.



The situation remained fluid and at the time of the Norman Conquest there were three powerful eorldoms: Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria.