

## ‘Exploring the Prehistoric Landscape of Teesdale’.

### The aims of the project are:

To undertake the first major investigation of the Greta Valley, where three Late Bronze Age metalwork hoards were found, using geophysical survey and small-scale targeted excavation

To recover material from archaeological features for dating, to evaluate if any activities were contemporary to the hoards. Ultimately the dating of the features will contribute to the construction of a chronological framework for Teesdale

1) The burnt mound dates from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Bronze Age. The structure was in use for at least 500 years, most likely intermittently

2) Cairn 1 dates to the Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age. A radiocarbon date was obtained from the charcoal spread in the north-west quadrant of the cairn:

2467 to 2235 calibrated BC

3) The late prehistoric enclosed settlement is believed to be Late Iron Age, from the LIA pot sherd that was found there.

4) One of the bronze artefacts uncovered in the 2015 Late Bronze Age hoard was dated to the Middle Bronze Age and was either an accidental discovery by LBA society or was curated by the same BA group, utilising the land we are investigating. The MBA spearhead is from the same period that the burnt mound was in use. What we have not identified yet is evidence from the Late Bronze Age.

The importance of the Greta Valley is its position close to the Stainmore Gap, with access over the Pennines into the Eden Valley and its proximity to Barningham Moor and its prehistoric monuments.

### Radio-Carbon dates received in 11/2022

The hearth deposit from the burnt mound has been dated to 1401 - 1221 cal BC so it later than the burnt stone deposits. There is a date for cairn 1 and it is very early at 2467 - 2235 cal BC, Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

### Radio-Carbon dates received in 09/2022

The use of the burnt mound occurred over a period of at least 500 years.

The top deposit from the heat cracked stone, charcoal dates to 1519-1426 cal BC so Middle Bronze Age.

The deposit lying on the flags at the bottom of the burnt mound dates to between 2198-1982 cal BC so very early Bronze Age.