

# **MENSTON HERITAGE GROUP**

## **Prehistoric Times**

Prehistoric times in Britain are often divided into three ages:

Stone Age – before about 2000 CE;

Bronze Age – from about 2000 CE to about 650 CE;

Iron Age – from about 650 CE until the arrival of the Romans in about 50 CE.

The landscape around Menston would have looked quite different then. In the Stone and Bronze Ages, the valleys and lower ground would have been heavily wooded, and marshy by the streams and rivers. So people would have tended to live in small groups on the high open ground.

Above Menston, they have left traces on Rombalds Moor and Burley Moor in the form of stone circles (the Apostle Stones), remains of burial cairns (the Great Skirtful of Stones), rock art (the Swastika Stone) and the over 300 rocks engraved with small cup marks and cup and ring marks.

By the time of the Iron Age, climate changes meant that people were able to move down from the highest ground and establish small settlements. These would still be built on sites that could be defended from other groups.

One such Iron Age settlement or camp was on the north side of Bleach Mill Lane on the low hill behind Southpiece Cottage. Archeological mapping from the air reproduced below (*LiDAR*) shows clearly the defensive outline round the edge of the hill.



*For further information see:*

*The Rock-art Landscapes of Rombalds Moor, West  
Yorkshire: Standing on Holy Ground - Vivien Deacon*

*historicengland.org.uk*

*(LiDAR image sourced from the ARCHI UK website at  
<https://www.archiuk.com>)*