

7. Conclusion

7.1 The excavation evidence has confirmed the presence of a large fortified ditched enclosure suggestive in style to an Iron Age hillfort and similar in proportion to the hillforts in neighbouring Derbyshire. The single sherd of Iron Age pottery and the abundance of fire cracked pebbles tend to support this suggestion. It appears from the artifacts discovered from the upper fills of the ditch that the site was later occupied during the Roman period possibly at the same time the Romans occupied the site now known as Melandra castle near Glossop, approximately five miles from the site at Mellor. What type of Roman presence was at Mellor is yet to be confirmed, ie either civilian or military, but considering the strategic location of the site and the period of occupation, it is quite likely to be military. The site is of the highest regional importance and on a national level will make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the periods present at this site. On a local level the importance is unprecedented with no other like sites in the Stockport Borough or even the Greater Manchester County.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Due to the lack of understanding that we have relating to the Iron Age and Roman periods in the Greater Manchester area and in particular the Borough of Stockport, this site has the potential to provide a great many of the answers to the development of these periods. The site also has the potential to reveal a veritable feast of Roman and Iron Age artifacts.

8.2 It is important now the chance has arisen to enhance the understanding of these periods that further excavation is undertaken around the Church and Old Vicarage areas at Mellor.

8.3 The site has a massive educational and research potential, that could be undertaken over a five year period aided by interaction with the local community, schools and university undergraduates, all under the supervision of the professional archaeological staff from the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit.