

Life on the Edge: the Rock-Cut Dwellings of Kinver Edge

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

This paper examines a group of rock cut dwellings which are situated on the Worcestershire/Staffordshire borders. This paper is part of the author's continuing research of these caves and the Study area referred to in the text is part of a wider research project. The main aim of this paper is to bring these interesting and fragile monuments to wider attention and to briefly examine how best to conserve and protect these unusual and fragile dwellings. It also gives a general outline of history and constructional details.

Despite having long been the focus of visitor and tourist interest these dwellings have never been studied in any great detail either archaeologically or architecturally and remain a poorly understood and perhaps little valued building type. The history of some of the caves however, Kinver in particular, has been well studied and local authors have published several books and articles on this subject (Bills 1978, Clark 2002)

Some rock cut dwellings within the study area are still partly in use but the last proper "cave house", as they are known locally, to be inhabited, was deserted only as late as the 1950s. Most of the sites examined here are abandoned. Visitor pressure, vandalism, demolition and natural decay has taken a great toll on many of the dwellings particularly in recent years

Rock-cut dwellings Nationally and Regionally

The cave houses discussed here are only a small group of a type of dwelling which is seen throughout the red sandstone areas of the Severn Valley. This soft Triassic stone is very easily quarried and natural caves can be quickly enlarged to form dwellings or ancillary buildings. The tendency of the stone to form cliffs and prominent outcrops also means that it is easily quarried and this activity provides flat cliff faces suitable for burrowing homes into. The local hilly and rocky topography also means that many of the roads are also terraced deeply into the many outcrops.

These rock cut structures occur in all the areas where the red sandstone outcrops along the Severn and beyond and stretches south to north from Gloucestershire up to Cheshire. Some of these man-made caves have attested ancient origins; some such as caves near Stourport and Bridgnorth were made as medieval monastic hermitages (Gwilt, undated). A great many were used as cellars and storage buildings and many examples of these may be found in towns such as Bridgnorth (BUFAU,

Gwilt undated), Worcester and Shrewsbury. Even as late as the Second World War the soft stone was utilised for the rapid construction of large underground facilities, one of which lies in the study area but lies outside the scope of this paper.

These regional cave dwellings are in turn only part of a much larger group of cave houses nationally. In the East Midlands, Nottingham in particular, the similarly soft sandstones have allowed the creation of elaborate grottoes, cellars and dwellings (Waltham 1996). In Cumbria there are number of cave houses, Lacy’s caves in particular, which also bear distinct similarities to those discussed in this paper.

Rock-cut Dwellings on Kinver Edge

The group of cave houses and rock cut dwellings discussed here fit into a small geographical area and all lie on or within a couple of miles of a massive sandstone escarpment called Kinver Edge. This cuts through the county boundaries of Staffordshire and Worcestershire and the parish boundaries of Kinver, Staffordshire and Wolverley and Cookley, Worcestershire.

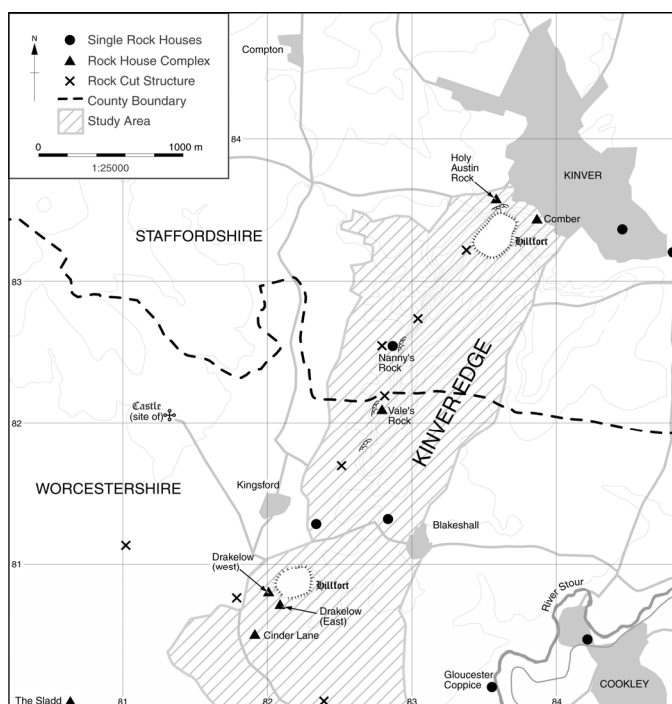


Figure 1. Sites mentioned in the text (excluding Wolverley village)

Kinver Edge is an area of mixed forest, heath and marginal land surrounded on each side by the fertile farmland of the Stour valley to the east and the Severn valley to the west. Many of the cave

dwelling are located on cliff sides now often hidden in dense woodland but all three villages, Kinver, Wolverley and Cookley, have great numbers of cave dwellings and many are still used as wood stores, sheds or even garages.

The study area includes several groups of entirely rock-cut dwellings. These are usually built on terraces into hillsides and cliffs and may be either single or multiple dwellings. They are often only one room in depth with doors and windows carved into the exterior wall and looking out onto the terrace. Some are clearly separate units with numbers of individual 'houses', others have grown more 'organically' and have numerous detached rooms which may have served a wide variety of functions.

As well as these purpose-built houses there are also at least two large examples which are made from enlarged natural caves and are quite unlike the other rock houses in construction or appearance. There is also a single and rather enigmatic example of a large natural cave which has been clearly used for habitation but which remains essentially unaltered.

In the area there are also a great many smaller caves which form the cellar or rear wall of brick built buildings. Also there are numerous rock-cut structures ranging from roadways to quarries and a great number of rock-cut building bases, many of which are associated with the main rock house sites.

Some of the caves are still under private ownership, particularly in villages, others are on land belonging to the National Trust or Staffordshire and Worcestershire County Councils. Only one of the cave houses in the study area is a listed building, Vales Rock, Wolverley, Grade II, and only one is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the restored National Trust caves at Holy Austin Rock, Kinver (**fig.2**), and is therefore the only one to appear on the relevant county Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monument Record.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The caves have long been the focus of tourism and in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Kinver in particular was a thriving tourist centre with many visitors flocking to see the village and woods which, somewhat optimistically, called itself "Little Switzerland". One of the highlights of any visit was a trip to see the "troglodyte" dwellers of Holy Austin Rock and the Compa, who in turn provided the visitors with refreshments and the chance to visit a small museum of curios. A number of postcard illustrations and accounts from the eighteenth century onwards show the popularity of these excursions and a fascination with the rock dwellings and their inhabitants.

The origin of the troglodytic activity in this area is unknown. The only site that has been excavated to any extent had been cleared by eighteenth and nineteenth century activity (Shoosmith 1993).

Names such as Holy Austin Rock, Kinver and Holly Austin Rock, Wolverley are widely suspected to represent the presence of Augustinian friars and suggest their use as medieval hermitages (as seen in Stourport and Bridgnorth).



Figure 2. The National Trust's restored rock-houses at Holy Austin Rock, Kinver

The easiest definite historical mention of a cave dweller is Margaret of the Foxearth who died on the 8th June 1617 (Bills 1978 p17) who lived in Nanny's Rock (**figs.4 & 8**) and is recorded in the burial records of St Peter's church Kinver. The first detailed description of a rock house was by J Heeley in 1777 who visited Holy Austin Rock (Kinver), (Bills, 1978).

Later parish and census records give us an idea of who lived in the houses and appear to show that most of the cave dwellers made a living on this marginal land by acting as labourers from nearby farms or from the common and woodland of the Edge itself (Gilley, 1991a). The last cave dweller on the Edge who lived at Vales Rock until 1955 (Gilley, 1991b) was a maker of besom brooms crafted from the local birch twigs. As such he was the last in a long tradition of scraping a precarious living from the woods and heaths.

In the nineteenth century many caves were still inhabited and large groups of cave houses were still being constructed as late as 1850 (Gilley, 1991a). By the early twentieth century however many had become abandoned or were no longer used as dwellings but as agricultural and store buildings.

By the 1950s even the large groups of dwellings in Kinver Village, Holy Austin Rock and the Compa, were deserted and although still used as summer tea rooms the lesser caves rapidly became ruinous. In the caves which were easily accessible to the public or not on private land vandalism and theft quickly stripped caves of doors and windows, furniture and fittings and even tiled floors were dug up and brick walls demolished.

In the 1980s many caves were used for parties and vandalism, particularly fires and the sawing through of rock walls with cables, caused several roof falls. Partly to stem this loss the National Trust restored the caves at Holy Austin Rock and rebuilt a lost sandstone dwelling from old photographs. This allowed a permanent custodian to live on site and the reconstruction of a furnished set of dwellings. This restoration also initiated the only detailed archaeological assessment yet carried out on one of the rock houses (Shoesmith 1993). The other sites remain in a state of decay.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

Choice of site

The basic construction technique used on the majority of the rock houses is simple and the evidence for it clearly survives in the numerous rows of pick marks that cover many internal rock house walls. In most cases it appears as if a suitable cliff face was selected and the initial construction was as simple as digging into this and creating the required amount of rooms. Most of the rock houses are only one room in depth, although a small larder or cupboard may be built off this. The disincentives of burrowing too deep in the rock must be practical as well as structural, deep rooms may be poorly lit and ventilated. On houses which are high up on a cliff or under a sandstone knoll the house may be cut deeper than one room into the rock and have interconnected rooms on each face. Such houses with thinner and lighter rock roofs however present their own problems as a crack caused by frost or rock movement may render the whole house uninhabitable, this appears to have happened at Drakelow, Wolverley and Sampson's Cave, in the neighbouring parish of Enville.

The structural stability of the sandstone must have been a prime consideration in choosing a location and cliffs which are crossed by particularly soft layers of strata or have deep cracks seem to have been avoided. Although some rock faces appear to modern eyes to be an unsuitable location to build a home, i.e. they face north or are on exposed and difficult to get to locations, there are several such inhospitable locations that have been utilised for cave houses. This is probably because the benefit of getting a flat face of good quality strong and un-cracked stone outweighed the considerations one may make in the sighting of a more conventional building. Some of the locations of cave houses and rock cut structures however are seemingly bizarre and there are several, sometimes elaborate, examples which appear to only have entrances onto precipitous cliffs.

The danger of choosing an unsuitable rock can be seen on the lower level of Vales Rock, Wolverley where a massive rock fall in the winter of 1982 destroyed two cave houses under tons of debris.

This was seemingly caused by frost settling in deep fissures within the rock and then expanding and causing the fall.

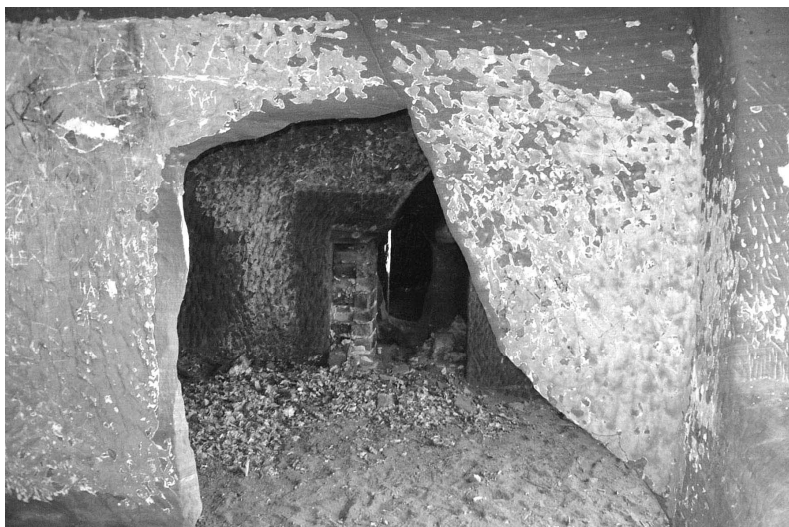


Figure 3. Thin internal walls dividing rooms at Drakelow, east group, the holes in the walls are due to vandalism.

Enhanced Natural Caves

The simplest of the rock houses are those which are built into or are enlarged natural caves. Such caves are however not common and the soft red sandstone is not geologically disposed to forming large caves or caverns. In the study area the number of natural caves may be difficult to quantify as nearly all have been later turned into rock houses. Only a very few natural caves survive unaltered in the study area and these are almost all in inaccessible locations, often high on cliff faces.

The most dramatic of the natural caves is at Gloucester Coppice in Cookley. Here a large natural cave sits on a near vertical cliff overlooking the River Stour. It is only accessible by a perilous decent down the rock face which leads to a narrow ledge, Behind this is a long tunnel which leads to a larger cave the mouth of which overlooks the river valley. Unlike all the other rock houses and cave sites man-made interventions are seemingly slight and consist mostly of small niches and graffiti. At the far back of the cave however and far from the entrance is a small man-made structure made up of a rock cut floor and wall which must have held a structure. This and the presence of numerous rock cut paths and niches on the surrounding cliff attest that even this seemingly natural cave has been the focus of human activity (Craswell 1997).

Nanny's Rock (**figs.4 & 8**) is another enhanced natural cave site which is somewhat easier to interpret but like Gloucester Coppice is both unusual and enigmatic. This is a very large cave

complex owned by the National Trust and sited on the west face of the Kinver Edge escarpment. This is clearly a rock-house but in form and scale it is quite unlike any of the other examples in the study area having much larger and higher rooms. It was inhabited in 1617 (Bills, 1978) and was described in 1686 (Plot 1686), unlike many other sites however there is no real history of eighteenth and nineteenth century habitation.



Figure 4. Nanny's Rock, an enhanced natural cave.

The rock house is made up of an enlarged natural cave which still survives at the south end of the monument. It sits high on a sloping cliff face and may only be accessed by a steep water channel at the north end of the main cave (a smaller artificial cave lies to the immediate north). This entrance gives access to a suite of separate chambers bored into the hillside. These are lit by large windows on the west side and were heated by two fireplaces with impressive chimneys cut into the stone above (scars indicate that these had timber framed fronts). What is clear at Nanny's rock is that the irregularity of the cave entrance meant that part of the front was made up of a timber frame. This survives as slots, scars and beam holes which are difficult to interpret but seem to represent a large timber framed façade

Artificial caves

The, presumably later, entirely artificial caves, described above, are created almost entirely by hard labour and the use of a pick, these are usually far more regular in plan than those made from enlarged caves. All are similar in form with a number of rooms in a row with doors and windows looking out onto a terrace or ledge. Many of the single dwellings or smaller groups (Cinder Lane Caves and Vales Rock) have a great number of sometimes linked individual caves and are associated with a great many ruinous buildings and rock-cut features near the cave houses. With

sites like these it is difficult to understand how many individual dwellings one is looking at or how they developed over time.

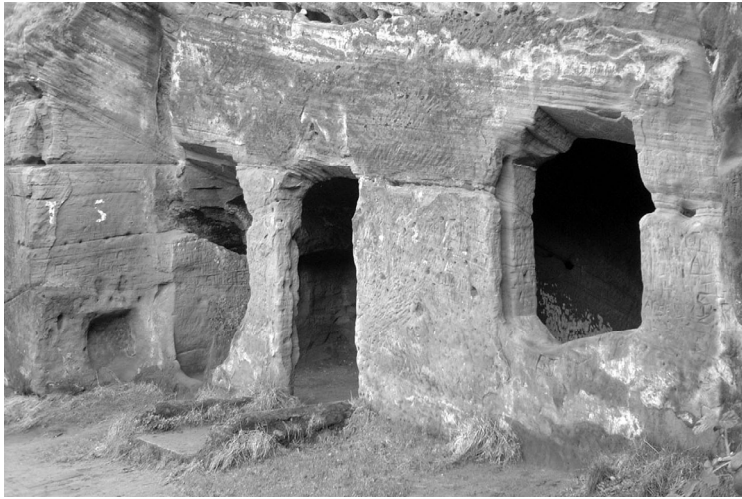


Figure 5. An exterior view at Holy Austin Rock, Kinver, note the slot for a window frame and painted internal walls.

Some groups of rock houses however are clearly developments which were constructed in one main phase. The largest of these is the group of seven dwellings at the eastern end of the Drakelow group (**figs.3 & 6**). These are almost all identical and each dwelling has a kitchen/parlour, pantry or larder and one or more bedrooms. Fireplaces have brick lined flues which are cut into the exterior of the rock face. This complex was built for retired ironworkers in 1850 (Gilley, 1991a)

In construction many of the eastern Drakelow rock houses are almost identical to each other and unlike earlier examples, the rock hewn walls between individual rooms may be very thin (**fig.3**). A number of other complexes in the study area have similar units, the upper level at Vales Rock (**fig.10**), the Sladd Lane Rock houses, lower level Holy Austin Rock, and these are likely to be similar in date to the Drakelow examples.

Other rock-cut structures

These ‘developments’ of groups of rock houses are not the earliest examples of exploiting the building qualities of the soft sandstone in such a structured manner. In Wolverley village beneath the church in the car park of the Queen’s Head public house a row of near identical scars can be seen running along a cliff face (**fig.10**). These are clearly beam slots and joist holes relating to several vanished two-storey timber buildings which used this cliff as their rear wall. Beneath these some, often deep, and irregular caves are dug into the cliff face and these may have acted as cellars for the vanished buildings. What is fortunate in this case however is that next to the car

park one of these timber buildings survives and is still inhabited to this day. This timber framed building may be 17th-century in date. It uses a number of caves at its rear as cellars and woodshed.

This use of rock-cut or caves as the rear or base of buildings may be found all over the study area and a great number of older houses still have stone cellars or small caves in the gardens. A number of these partial cave houses have brick or stone fronts and from the exterior appear to be a normal dwelling. Brick fronted caves are found at a number of sites and help give at least a rough idea of when they were occupied. At Vales Rock a clearly nineteenth century brick cave front survives almost intact, whereas at the western caves of Drakelow, a number of caves have the remains of seventeenth and eighteenth century brick facades.

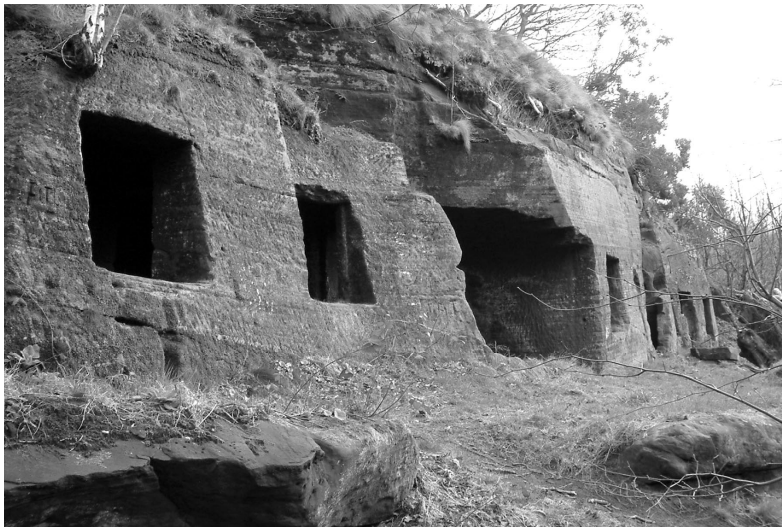


Figure 6. 1850s caves at Drakelow, east group, built by retired ironworkers. The collapse in the centre was caused in 2000 by tree roots penetrating the rock.

Other examples of rock-cut work are more idiosyncratic and include the remarkable use of rock cut walls on the otherwise conventionally roofed houses of Church Lane in Wolverley village. These houses have their front walls formed from sandstone left by the excavation of the deeply terraced lane. The rest of the buildings are made up from brick, timber and sandstone blocks.

Interiors and Fittings

Many of the cave sites have constructional similarities and similar architectural details. Windows and doors often have an inverted U shaped channel carved above them, to act as a drip moulding. Wooden doors and windows were set in recessed channels in the stonework (**fig.5**) and many heated rooms have small unlit storerooms or larders built off them. Chimney flues are carved straight through or along the exterior of the rock face and are lined in brick or timber.

Almost all the interiors of those caves occupied in the nineteenth century, were plastered or whitewashed. The sandy cave interiors however were not suited to holding plaster and some accounts mention an almost continual problem with falling sand creating a dusty environment (Gilley 1991b). Extensive use of niches and built in cupboards is obvious in many of the caves and numerous stake holes and slots may represent, cupboards, beds or partitions.

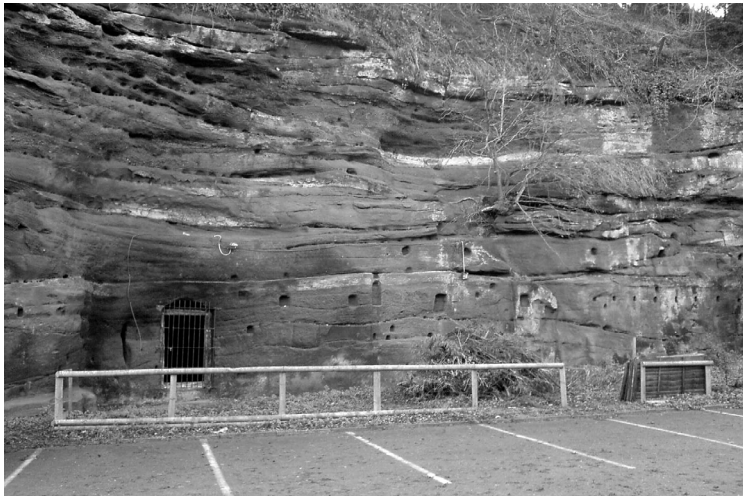


Figure 7. Rock cut features at the Queen's Head, Wolverley. Some relate to vanished timber buildings, others remain mysterious.

UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETATION

Problems of survey and phasing

Although the types of structure detailed above are the main identifiable forms of rock house many of the rock house complexes have undergone successive phases of development and alteration and this is reflected in the standing archaeology.

Unlike more conventional standing buildings abandoned rock houses survive as negative features, these are often undercut by other negative features. Features such as beam slots, integral cupboards and joist holes may be easily identifiable but at many sites there are a great many such features on each wall and deciphering their purpose and sequence of construction may be difficult (Crawford 1979).

The situation is further complicated by the irregularity of most of the rock houses, this frequently renders traditional two dimensional drawing techniques as useless. This irregularity is further compounded by erosion of the soft rock (particularly by wind action) which creates what appear to be niches or man-made features which may be totally natural.

The usual approach to understanding a building would be to carry out an assessment perhaps followed by a drawn survey and an archaeological analysis. With a cave house this may be costly and unproductive because of the factors listed above. The irregularity of many walls would also inhibit any but the simplest REDM or rectified photographic surveys.

The most effective approach may be the use of 3D scanning. Although at the moment this is expensive recent advances have made the data produced far easier to manipulate and use. Such an approach would allow the myriad of negative features in many caves to be grouped, analysed and phased. It may also be possible to remove the ‘noise’ created by vandalism, weathering etc and discern features which are indistinct or masked. In many caves there are very slight features of interest which only survive in part and are hidden by moss, erosion or vandalism. The recent discovery of the stop of a, possibly seventeenth century, elaborate stone fireplace surround at Nanny’s Rock has proved difficult to record by conventional methods and would certainly repay scanning.

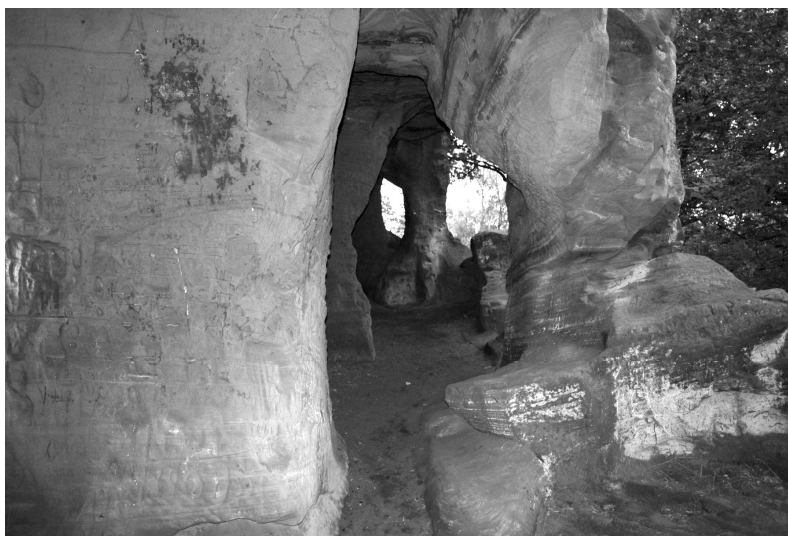


Figure 8. The interior of Nanny’s Rock is unlike any other rock-house and contains a wealth of archaeological information.

Archaeological Investigation

Below ground archaeological investigation has been minimal but work at Holy Austin Rock demonstrated that earlier evidence than the last occupation may have been swept away (Shoosmith 1993). This is clear in a great many of the sites where the rock surface of the floor is clearly visible beneath a very shallow layer of fallen sand. The laying down of tiled floors in the nineteenth century and their removal and destruction in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries is likely to have further lessened the potential for buried archaeology. In some of the caves however

(particularly the deeper and more long abandoned caves such as Gloucester Coppice and Nanny's Rock) there may be the potential for deeper undisturbed archaeological deposits.

Although many of the caves themselves and perhaps the rock-cut terraces at their entrance may have restricted below ground archaeological potential, there is great potential in their immediate surroundings. At almost every site the cave itself is surrounded by a great many rock cut features which are the remains of small quarries, roadways and buildings. At Vales Rock some of these buildings survived into the 1970s and the author remembers many that were sheds, privies and large ancillary buildings. At many sites however the date and function of these structures remains mysterious. A small cave near the junction of Kingsford Lane and the Sandy Track, Wolverley is surrounded by at least ten building bases and a number of stone walls. None of these are shown on either the tithe map or any other early mapping and must have gone out of use at an early date.

Many of these rock-cut features are partially filled with material and would be good targets for any future excavation. Many of the cave sites clearly have middens at or near their entrances and at almost all pottery, metalwork, clay pipes etc may be found on the surface in large amounts. None of this archaeological information has been logged or recorded. Although almost all of this material is late nineteenth and twentieth centuries the author has found significantly large amounts of medieval and even prehistoric material, as surface finds, very near several of the rock houses. It is hoped that the further study of these areas outside the houses may do much to illustrate the life of the post medieval cave dwellers and perhaps help solve the mystery of the origins of the buildings.

As well as the practical problems of recording and understanding both the phasing and development of the rock houses and their settings there is also the problem of understanding how the various rooms of the caves were used and how this developed over time. In some of the later sites this is clear and there are rooms with more or less definable functions. In many of the older and larger complexes there are multiple caves and buildings which may have belonged to one dwelling. Clearly not all the uses are domestic and caves in Drakelow and the Compa, Kinver were seemingly used for nail making and as workshops. At Drakelow, west group, an almost complete forge survives (**fig.11**) and several other possible forges may be found elsewhere.

THREATS

As has been detailed above the condition of many rock houses is poor and many are under threat. On all but a few very isolated or privately owned sites the wooden window and door furniture has long gone and apart from the restored Holy Austin Rock the last two decades has seen a rapid deterioration of many of the major sites.

Vandalism

Perhaps the greatest threat is vandalism which ranges from simple graffiti to purposeful large-scale destruction. The most common vandalism is simple graffiti, the soft sandstone lends itself well to

carved initials and there are examples on isolated rock faces which may go back as far as the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. On the whole this is a largely harmless activity with a long history and is in itself of archaeological and historical interest.

Since the early 1990s however the nature of the graffiti has changed and letter initials are used less and less to be replaced by pictures and carved scenes. One particular aspect of this is that suitable and dramatic locations (usually in rock houses) are used as material for carved faces and figures. Whilst many of these are interesting and of no little artistic merit they, perhaps unwittingly, destroy archaeological features and damage the integrity and appearance of several sites.

More serious vandalism has included the destruction of almost all the thin rock-cut walls on the assessable sites. These walls are often only c100mm thick and can be easily kicked out. Similarly brick and stone fireplaces and brick lined flues have been demolished. In several sites quarry tile floors have been uprooted and either thrown out of the entrance or stolen (**figs. 3, 9 & 10**).

The greatest acts of vandalism were carried out in the 1980s and 1990s when steel cables were used to cut through the supporting window and door piers at Vales Rock (upper level) and the eastern caves at Drakelow. These attempts to create rock falls must have been carried out with the perpetrators, rather bizarrely, standing under the tons of rock they were seeking to dislodge!

The isolation and lack of monitoring and maintenance of many of the sites is both a threat and a protection. The uncontrolled growth of tree roots through the rock caused major collapses at Drakelow in 2000 (**fig.6**). Elsewhere in this complex, however, tree, ivy and scrub growth has protected many caves by disguising their entrances and hiding nearby ruined buildings. In Vales Rock, which is in Kingsford Forest Park and owned by Worcestershire County Council, the cave sites have been cleared of trees and scrub and an attempt made to fence the site and put warning signs up. Unfortunately this has made many previously hidden features more visible and since the clearance they have been almost destroyed by vandalism.

Accidental Destruction, Weathering, Plant Growth and Decay

In recent years the creation of several vehicular roadways across the woods (to allow emergency vehicle access) has damaged the fragile field systems, sandstone walls and rock-cut features which are associated with the rock houses. The use of parts of the Wolverley end of Kinver Edge for forestry plantation has also caused unwitting damage during planting and harvesting. This damage was not intentional but rather reflects a lack of understanding of this historic landscape and its monuments.

Gradual decay and plant growth will affect all historic buildings and compared to conventional buildings cave houses are remarkably resilient. In some cases plant growth has actually protected the structures from human access in other instances however tree roots growing into the rock have caused several serious collapses.

Gradual decay and weathering as well as erosion caused by the elements and visitors is affecting all of the sites. Although in most places the effects of weathering and erosion may seem minor, it all contributes to the loss of unrecorded archaeological information.



Figure 9. The lower level at Vales Rock (Wolverley) retained its quarry floors, fireplaces, fittings and even some furniture until the 1970s, the site is now in very poor condition.



Figure 10. A fireplace and flue at the upper level of Vales Rock (Wolverley) has suffered from repeated and sustained vandalism and has benefited from neither protection or recording.

APPROACHES FOR THE FUTURE

The future of the rock houses is uncertain, the wonderful but expensive reconstruction and consolidation carried out by the National Trust at Holy Austin Rock, Kinver, could not be easily carried out elsewhere. The Worcestershire County Council policy of leaving the monuments untouched but carrying out limited clearance, as at Vales Rock and nearby sites, has proved unsuccessful. Most other sites remain unrecorded and unprotected in a state of gradual deterioration and under continual threat from vandalism and neglect. Some sites however, particularly in the Compa, Kinver and Wolverley village are still used, maintained and cared for and are under no great threat. Perhaps the most encouraging result is the recent restoration by a new owner, of the important and well preserved group of caves at the Sladd, Wolverley, this was carried out with no grant or guidance and yet this has helped save this important group from deterioration.

From an historical and archaeological perspective the greatest need must be to establish the exact scale and nature of the resource. The author has carried out mapping and compiled a gazetteer of sites known to him. This includes known history a description and an assessment of condition. It is hoped in the near future to work with local historical groups to produce detailed mapping and a database for the parishes showing all features of historical and archaeological interest. This would be a continuation of unfinished work commenced as long ago as the 1970s (Fenton 1975, King 1976). This would allow many of the important sites to be entered on the relevant county Historic Environment Records. It is hoped that this will also reveal a number of new cave sites, particularly those hidden within houses or private property, that at the present time remain unknown to the author.

It is also hoped that the National Trust and the county councils will consider the commissioning of a conservation plan for the monuments and historic landscapes on the publicly accessible parts of Kinver Edge. This would be the first step in ensuring a coordinated approach to the care of the monuments and allow future work within the woodland to be planned with the archaeology in mind.

From an academic viewpoint it is hoped that funding will be found for excavation and survey work to at least one of the sites. Detailed survey, perhaps using 3D scanning and analysis of upstanding remains, combined with targeted excavation, will allow a greater understanding of these monuments and this in turn will allow a real understanding of their significance. It is also hoped that some of these monuments will be selected for registering under the new system of statutory protection.

This scope of this paper has only allowed the most cursory examination of these enigmatic and curious structures. It is the authors hope that it will in some way create a greater interest in this monument type which is found in many parts of Britain and yet remains poorly understood and extremely vulnerable.



Figure 11. A Sandstone oven at Drakelow (west group) has only survived because of the isolated and overgrown location.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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