

New theory casts doubt on Stonehenge bluestone links

NEW research has thrown doubt on claims that the Preseli Hills are home to a Neolithic bluestone quarry.

Archaeologists conducted annual digs near Brynberian and promoted the idea that some of the bluestones at Stonehenge were quarried in Pembrokeshire before being carried to Wiltshire some 5,000 years ago.

In 2012, Professor Mike Parker Pearson put forward his theory that some of the fragments of rock in the soil layers in and around Stonehenge could be matched closely to a blue rhyolite rock at Rhosyfelin.

Geologist John Downes and geomorphologists Dyfed Ellis-Griffiths and Brian John have examined the Rhosyfelin site very carefully and come to the conclusion that there are no traces of a Neolithic quarry. Instead, they interpret the rocky debris as entirely natural accumulations over a long period of time.

They accept that there might have been a prehis-

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toric camp site in the sheltered valley at the foot of the Rhosyfelin rocky crag, but suggest it was used by hunters rather than by quarrymen.

Dr Brian John said: "We have no argument with the geological work that links this site with Stonehenge, but we cannot accept the idea of a Neolithic quarry here without firm evidence.

"We are also increasingly convinced that the rhyolite debris at Stonehenge comes from glacial erratics which were eroded from the Rhosyfelin rocky crag almost half a million years ago by the overridding Irish Sea Glacier and then transported eastwards by ice towards Salisbury Plain.

"We are confident that radiocarbon and other dating in the future will confirm the falsehood of the Neolithic quarry theory and the essential reliability of the glacial transport theory."



Dr Brian John (pictured) does not accept the idea that there was a Neolithic quarry at Craig Rhosyfelin