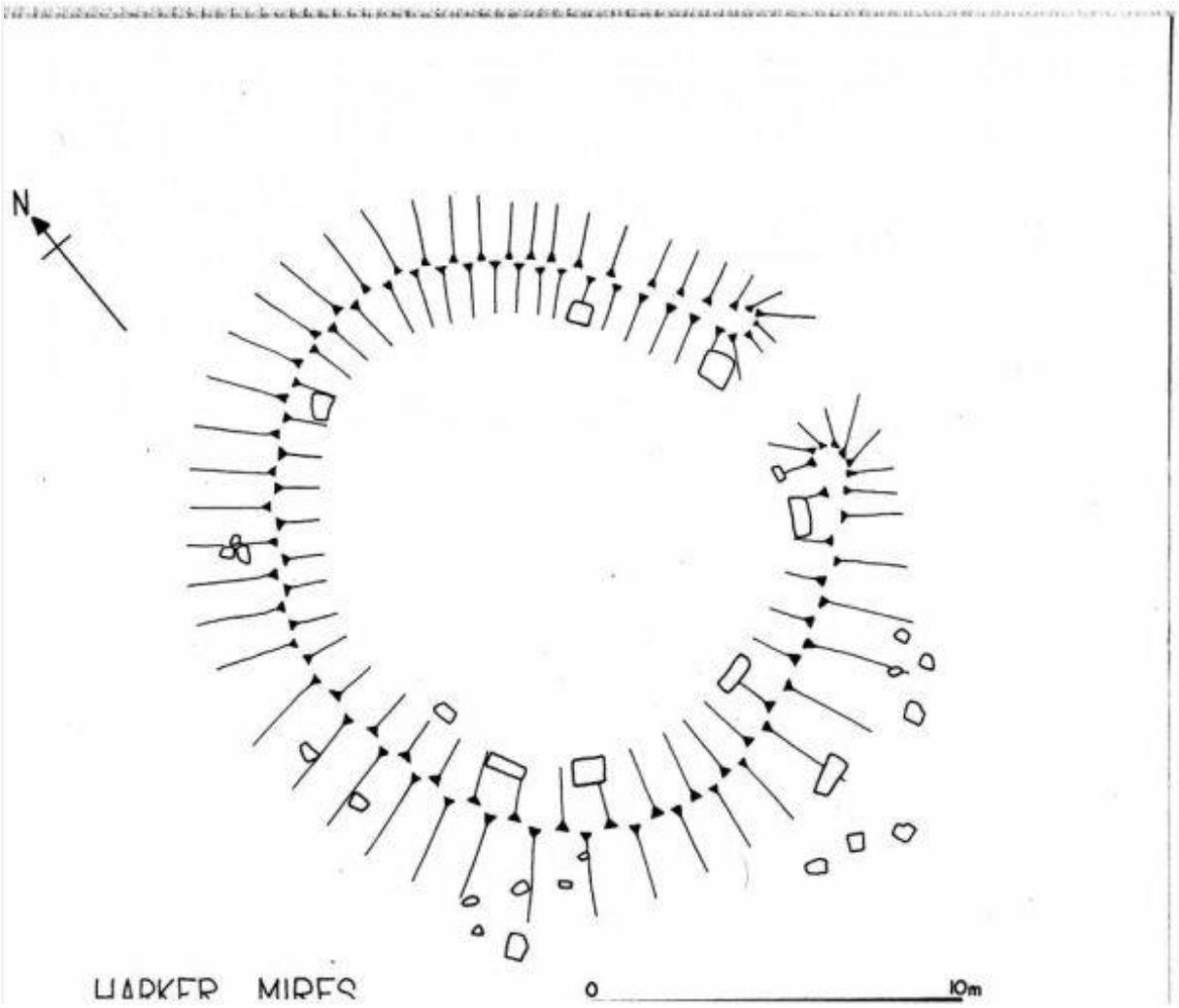
Record Name: Ring Cairn or embanked stone circle at Harker Mires.
SWAAG ID Number: 118
Recorded Date: 2011-02-06 12:01:18
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2011-02-06
Location: Grinton CP. Harkerside Moor. Harker Mires.
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid: SE 03531 97610
Altitude: 340m
Geology: Lateral moraine over shales, Underset Limestone Series.
Description: This prominent and largely undisturbed Ring Cairn (alias: enclosed cremation cemetery or embanked stone circle), comprises a (relatively) massive stone rubble bank 2.5-3.0m wide revetted on both internal and external faces with occasional large orthostats, some fallen, some standing ï¿½ which encloses a subcircular area approximately 12m diameter. An entrance 3.m wide is evident on the eastern perimeter . See 1:100 detail survey plan.
This is the best preserved and most convincing ring cairn of the eastern Dales.

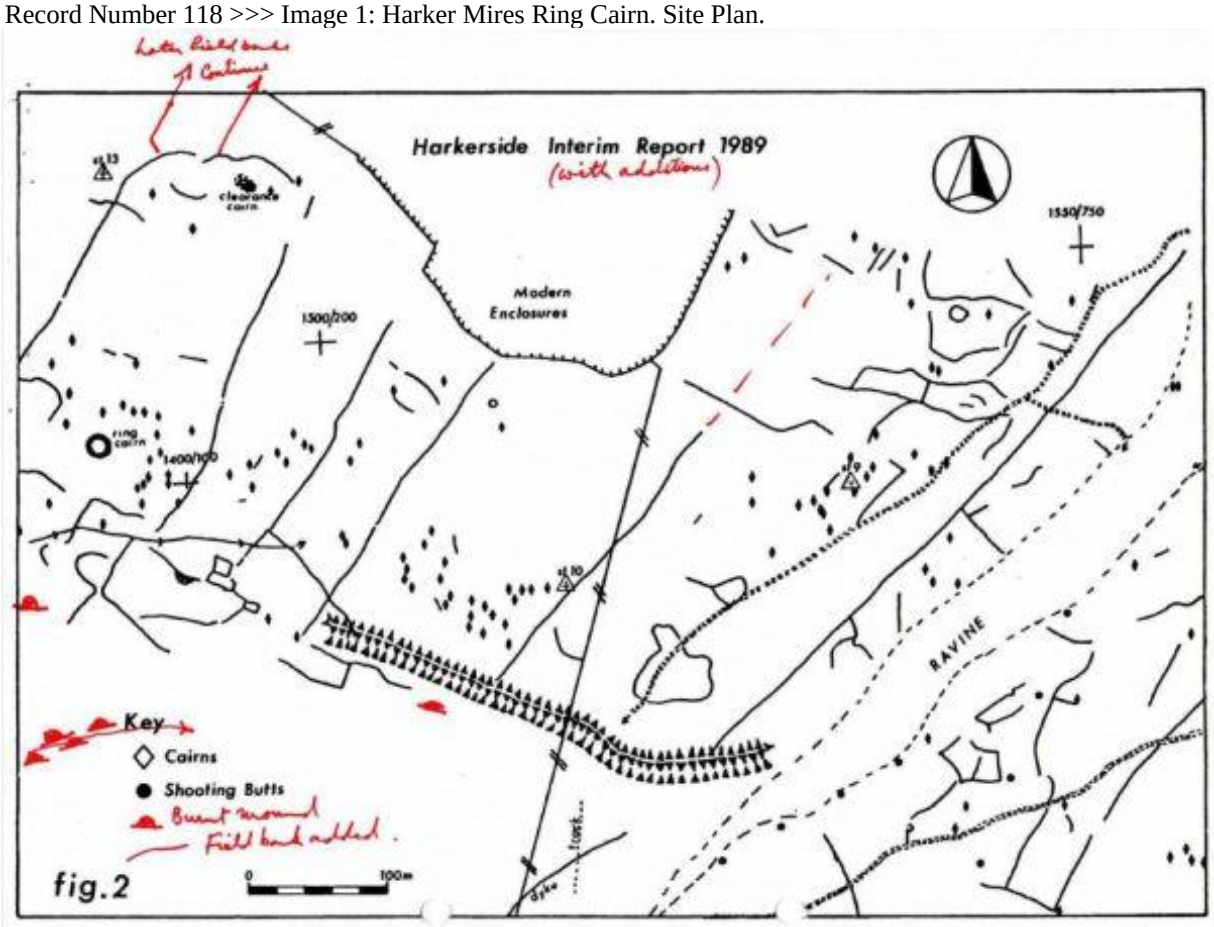
Dimensions: 20m Diameter overall
Additional Notes: This site (see 1:100 plan) is centrally located within a co-axial field system (GRI 47. 3113) and cairnfield, (GRI 11. 2650, GRI 50. 3112), see 1:2000 survey plan. There are circular cairns in the vicinity including a small ring cairn (GRI 61. 3133) which may also be burial monuments , not just clearance. A substantial burnt mound (GRI10.2649) is located some 200m to the SSW and may be contemporary with the cairn field. The coaxial field boundaries icorporate at least one cairn and is therefore later, but probably not much later, in date.
The importance of this site is that, uniquely for this class of monument, it has NOT been excavated.
Other, much smaller ring cairns, which may be the perimeter of reduced cairns, are located on Fremington Edge, Marrick Moor and on Skelton Moor. The larger, 10-20m diameter slight ring banks previously recorded as ring cairns are more probably round house enclosures.
It is very possible that this ring cairn was originally a round house, being converted to an enclosed cremation cemetery on abandonment.
The best analogy for this site is that on Danby Rigg, NYM. Dated to 1745-1675 Cal. B.C. (Harding A.F. et al 1994.) Other parallels are offered by the more numerous examples of Craven.
Ring cairns have proved to be multi period and to have several episodes of construction, that at Oddendale, near Shap in Cumbria (Turnbull and Walsh 1997) commenced use at around 2800Cal BC as a double concentric ring of large timber posts,this being changed to a low slight ring bank at a date after around 1800BCapproximately 1000years later.

References
Atkinson, J.C. 1891. Forty Years in a Moorland Parish. London. Macmillan.
Laurie, T.C. in Spratt, D and Burgess, C. 1985. Upland Settlement in Britain. BAR British Series 143, 135-162.
Harding A.F. with Ostoja-Zagorski Archaeol. J. (1994),16-97.
Turnbull, P and Walsh, D 1997. A Prehistoric Ritual Sequence at Oddendale, Near Shap. Trans C& W A7 A Soc. VolXCVll, p11-44.

Last Update: 2011-02-06



Record Number 118 >>> Image 1: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. Site Plan.



Record Number 118 >>> Image 2: Harker Mires. Ring Cairn, cairnfield and field system. Fleming and Laurie 1989, Interim Report.Figure

Record Number 118 >>> Image 3: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. View westward. Note the dale flood plain is not visible.

Record Number 118 >>> Image 4: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. View eastward.

Record Number 118 >>> Image 5: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. View northward.

Record Number 118 >>> Image 6: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. View northward to Fremington Edge

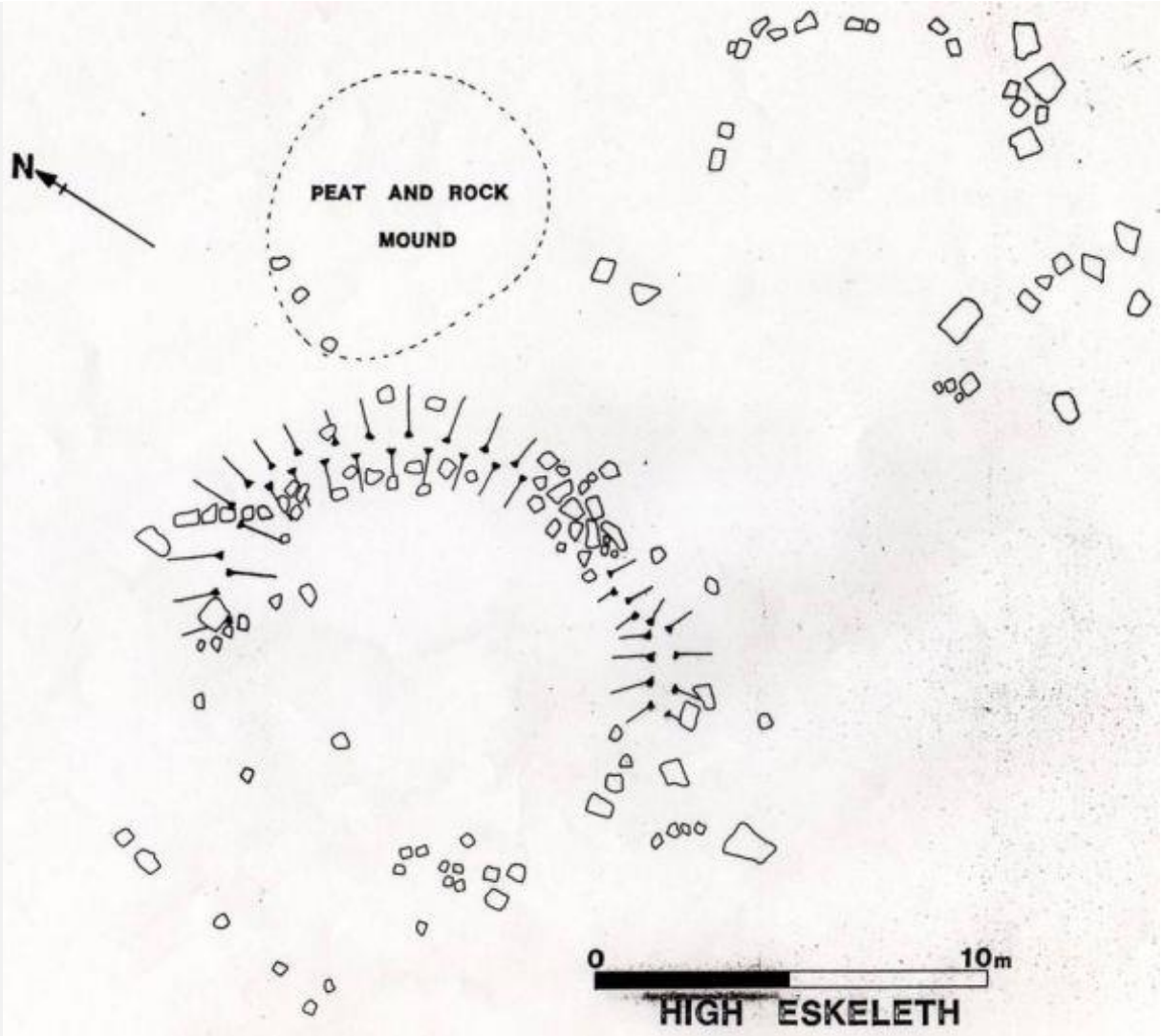
Record Number 118 >>> Image 7: Harker Mires Ring Cairn. Detail of large orthostat. (Standing stone on edge).

Record Name: High Eskeleth. Low Moor. Two adjacent ring banks and small round cairn.
SWAAG ID Number: 124
Recorded Date: 2011-02-09 15:19:00
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2005-01-01
Location: Arkengarthdale. High Eskeleth. Low Moor.
Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale
British National Grid: NY 99579 04534
Altitude: 395m
Geology: Sandstones and shales above Five yard Limestone
Description: Two adjacent ring banks previously interpreted as ring cairns but now interpreted as round houses, the first visible as a prominent penannular stone dump ring bank approximately 10m diameter, check, in rough pasture with adjacent low round cairn). One of the ring banks is prominant but is visible only as apenannular ring having been quarried away for half the perimeter. The second ring bank structure is just discernable adjacent, see TCL Survey Plan.
Dimensions: See survey plan.
Additional Notes: This site was originally interpreted as a ring cairn.
However these two slight ring banks present are now considered by the author more likely to be two successive adjacent round house enclosures. The adjacent round cairn may have been constructed from stones removed from the later of the two round houses, perhaps as a burial mound when the later house was abandoned, now visible as a penannular ring.
These ring banks, if proved to be a settlement may be associated with the field system (recorded seperately and settlement of two round houses some 300m to the south and lower down the slope also recorded separately.
The archaeological remains on Low Moor, Eskeleth have not yet been comprehensively surveyed and this should be regarded as a ptiority for SWAAG.

Last Update: 2011-02-09

Record Number 124 >>> Image 1: High Eskeleth. Low Moor. Penannular ring bank and small cairn. Second ring bank left of photo.

Record Number 124 >>> Image 2: High Eskeleth. Low Moor. Penannular ring bank and small cairn with Andrew Fleming. 1990.



Record Number 124 >>> Image 3: High Eskeleth. Low Moor. Penannular ring bank and small cairn. Site plan, TCL1990.

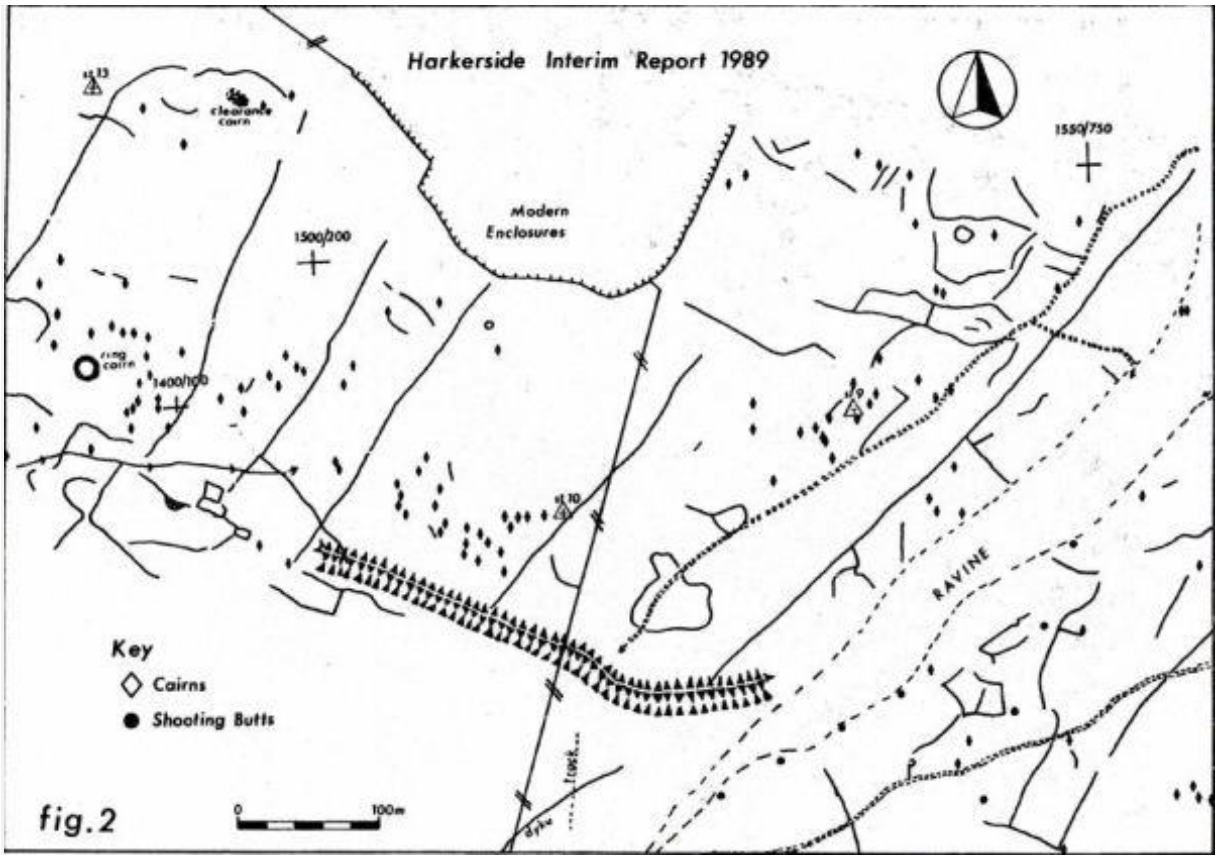
Record Number 124 >>> Image 4: High Eskeleth. Low Moor. Penannular ring bank and small cairn.

Record Name: Cairnfield type settlement complex centred on the Harker Mires Ring Cairn
SWAAG ID Number: 150
Recorded Date: 2011-03-05 15:31:49
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2005-01-01
Location: Harkerside Moor. Harker Mires.
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid: SE 035 976
Altitude: 340m
Geology: Lateral moraine and spring line draining into shallow mire over Middle Limestone series.
Description: Bronze Age settlement landscape which extends across the moorland slopes west of Grinton Gill and below High Harker Hill but centred on the fine ring cairn at Harker Mires (this Ring Cairn is shown on the 1:25000 Scale Os Map as a Hut Circle) comprising well preserved and largely undisturbed ring cairn, cairnfield, six burnt mounds,an extensive field system with irregular shaped paddock like fields and structures which may represent an unenclosed settlement. The extensive coaxial field system runs downslope and is probably late Bronze age in origin. Later field banks associated with settlements located at lower elevation in the pastures east of Plaintree farm run upslope and abut this field system above Dykes House.
For details of this Bronze Age Cairnfield Landscape see Laurie,T.C 1985. In: Spratt, D and Burgess, C. Eds. ' Upland Settlement in Britain. The Second Millenium B.C. and after. Ch. 8, Figure 8.4., Fleming and Laurie, 1989: SWALB Interim Report 1989, Figure 2 and Laurie,T.C. with Mahaffy N.W. and White R.F.'Coaxial field systems in Swaledale, a reassessment following recent fieldwork. Figure 8.4 and Plates 4 and 5.' Forthcoming.
SE 035 976 (Centre)
Dimensions: See surveys, Laurie 1985 Figure 8.4 and SWALB Interim Rpt 1989 Figure 2.
Additional Notes: This record emphasises the fact that the totality of this high elevation landscape is more important than the sum of its parts and Harker Mires could provide an open air laboratory for future research into the earliest permanent settlement of Swaledale.
The Swaledale Ancient Land Boundaries Project Plan must be considered indicative, provisional and is currently under review. Many features, including the burnt mounds are not shown on this plan as they were not recognised being under deep heather at the time of the original survey.
The fact that later field banks abut and respect the field boundaries running downslope from the high ground at Harker Mires confirms that the Bronze Age fields were still visible, possibly in continued use as mature hedges, with hedgerow trees.

Last Update: 2011-03-05

Record Number 150 >>> Image 5: The Harker Mires Settlement Landscape.

Record Number 150 >>> Image 6: The Harker Mires Ring Cairn forms the focus for a large Bronze Age cairnfield type settlement complex.



Record Number 150 >>> Image 7: Harker Mires Ring Cairn and Cairnfield settlement complex.

Record Name: The Harker Mires Ring Cairn.
SWAAG ID Number: 151
Recorded Date: 2011-03-05 15:59:21
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2005-01-01
Location: Harkerside Moor. Harker Mires
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid:
Altitude: 340m
Geology: Shales and strata of the Middle Limestone Series.
This ring cairn is located on a lateral moraine overlooking a shallow mire.

Description: This prominent and largely undisturbed Ring Cairn (alias: enclosed cremation cemetery or embanked stone circle), comprises a (relatively) massive stone rubble bank 2.5-3.0m wide revetted on both internal and external faces with occasional large orthostats, some fallen, some standing ï¿½ which encloses a subcircular area approximately 12m diameter. An entrance 3.0m wide is evident on the eastern perimeter. See 1:100 detail survey plan.
This is the best preserved and most convincing ring cairn of the eastern Dales.
Note!
This fine Ring Cairn,which can also be described as an Embanked Stone Circle or as an Enclosed Cremation Cemetary is located to relate to its immediate situation overlooking the settlement area around Harker Mires. The River Swale and the lower Dale Sides are not visible and the ring cairn does not relate to the lower elevations of Swaledale.
Dimensions: See site plan
Additional Notes: This site (see 1:100 plan) is centrally located within a co-axial field system (GRI 47. 3113) and cairnfield, (GRI 11. 2650, GRI 50. 3112), see 1:2000 survey plan. There are circular cairns in the vicinity including a small ring cairn (GRI 61. 3133) which may also be burial monuments, not just clearance. A substantial burnt mound (GRI10.2649) is located some 200m to the SSW and may be contemporary with the cairn field. The coaxial field boundaries icorporate at least one cairn and is therefore later, but probably not much later, in date.
The importance of this site is that, uniquely for this class of monument, it has NOT been excavated.
Other, much smaller ring cairns, which may be the perimeter of reduced cairns, are located on Fremington Edge, Marrick Moor and on Skelton Moor. The larger, 10-20m diameter slight ring banks previously recorded as ring cairns are more probably round house enclosures.
It is very possible that this ring cairn was originally a round house, being converted to an enclosed cremation cemetery on abandonment.
The best analogy for this site is that on Danby Rigg, NYM. Dated to 1745-1675 Cal. B.C. (Harding A.F. et al 1994.) Other parallels are offered by the more numerous examples of Craven.
Ring cairns have proved to be multi period and to have several episodes of construction, that at Oddendale, near Shap in Cumbria (Turnbull and Walsh 1997) commenced use at around 2800Cal BC as a double concentric ring of large timber posts,this being changed to a low slight ring bank at a date after around 1800BCapproximately 1000years later.

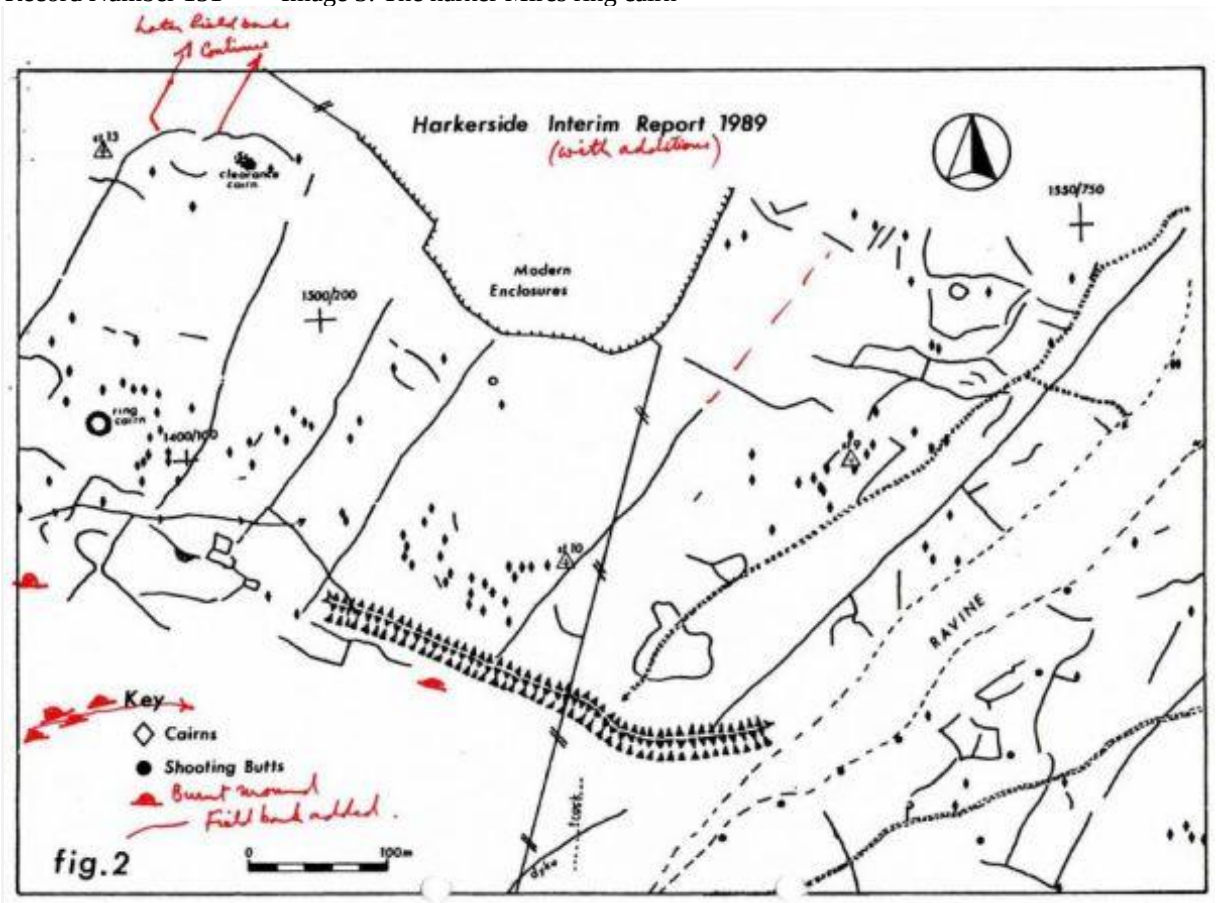
References
Atkinson, J.C. 1891. Forty Years in a Moorland Parish. London. Macmillan.
Laurie, T.C. in Spratt, D and Burgess, C. 1985. Upland Settlement in Britain. BAR British Series 143, 135-162.
Harding A.F. with Ostoja-Zagorski Archaeol. J. (1994),16-97.
Turnbull, P and Walsh, D 1997. A Prehistoric Ritual Sequence at Oddendale, Near Shap. Trans C& W A7 A Soc. VolXCVll, p11-44.

Last Update: 2011-03-05

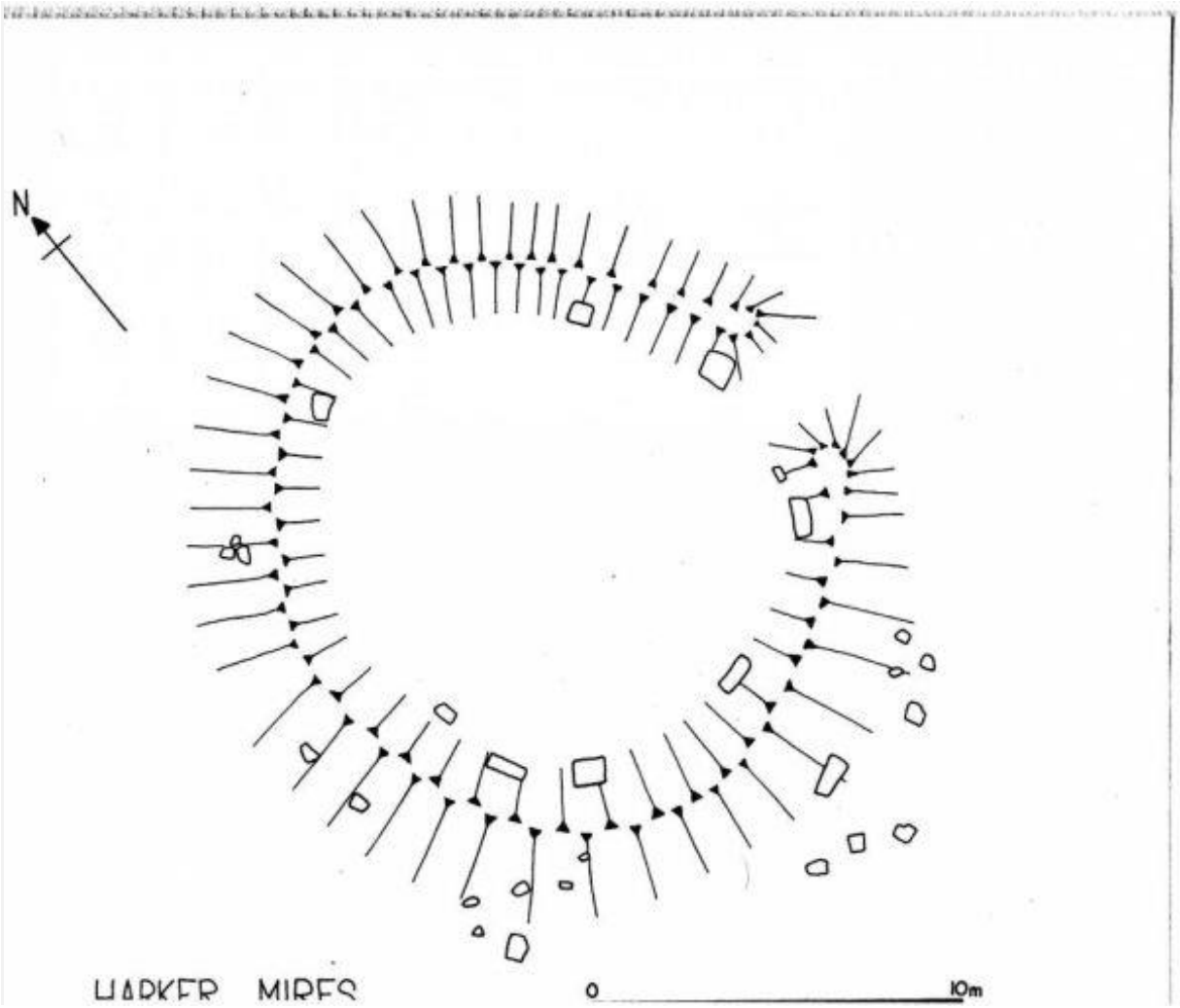
Record Number 151 >>> Image 1: The Harker Mires Ring Cairn or Embanked Stone Circle.

Record Number 151 >>> Image 2: The Harker Mires ring cairn.

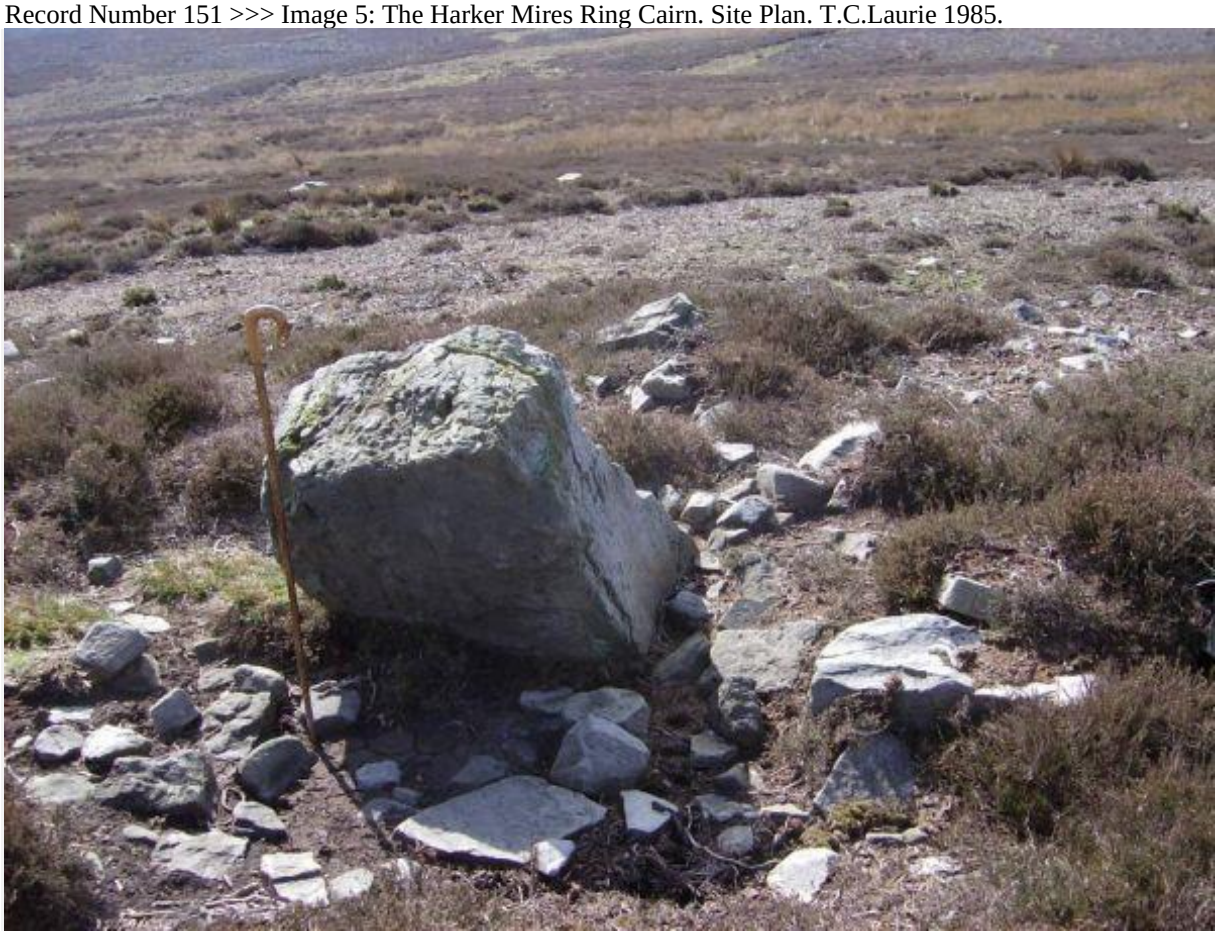
Record Number 151 >>> Image 3: The harker Mires ring cairn



Record Number 151 >>> Image 4: The Harker Mires Ring Cairn. Site Plan. SWALB Interim Rpt 1989.



Record Number 151 >>> Image 5: The Harker Mires Ring Cairn. Site Plan. T.C.Laurie 1985.



Record Number 151 >>> Image 6: Detail of one of the Standing Stones locted on the inner face of the stone rubble enclosing bank, southern quadrant

Record Name: Ellerton Moor Ring Cairn
SWAAG ID Number: 152
Recorded Date: 2011-03-07 18:53:11
Recorded by: Ric Carter
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2011-02-17
Location: Ellerton Moor
Civil Parish: Ellerton Abbey
British National Grid: #SE 05704 96516
Altitude: 362m
Geology: At the head of a small peat infilled ice margin channel
Description: An Early/Middle Bronze Age embanked stone circle or Ring Cairn, of circular plan,with sandstone kerbs and banking well defined where moorland heather burned off and with an internal circular depression (approx. 2m diameter)abutting the banking to the North and where there is the suggestion of an entrance way.The site on gently rising ground with outlook over Swaledale to the North West but restricted in other directions by higher ground close to the site.
Dimensions: External dia. 8.3m; internal 5.3m to 6m; banking 30cm high max.
Additional Notes: This Ring Cairn feature should not be regarded in isolation but rather in the context of other recorded (but un-excavated) features on Ellerton Moor which include a number of small cairns, burnt mounds and field systems.Similar Ring Cairn features previously excavated have been found to contain cremated human remains interred within typical collared and decorated clay urns. For example see "The Harden Moor Ring Cairn: An account of the excavations 1958-60,1983-4" publ.K. Boughey June 2010. Also see SWAAG data records (T.C.Laurie) Nos.150 (Harker Mires Cairnfield type settlement) and 151 (Harker Mires Ring Cairn).
Last Update: 2011-03-07

Record Number 152 >>> Image 1: Ellerton Moor Ring Cairn

Record Name: Preston Moor, including that part of Redmire Moor east of the unfenced road from Grinton to Redmire and the steep pastures below Redmire Scar.
SWAAG ID Number: 175
Recorded Date: 2011-04-19 11:50:26
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2011-04-19
Location: Preston Moor, Redmire Moor, Redmire Scar, Low Scar and Preston Scar.
Civil Parish: Preston Under Scar
British National Grid: SE 060 940
Altitude: From 320m to 470m
Geology: Outcrop of The Main Limestone which have been very extensively worked for lead on the line of the Cobscar Vein and Chaytor Rake and and the overlying Richmond Cherts which have been worked extensively both for lead and for coal above
Description: In the knowledge that the whole of the fossil upland landscape of Redmire Moor, Preston Moor, Redmire Scar and Low Scar Pastures amount to more than the sum of their parts, this overview will describe the physical background to the human occupation within this strategic location and the archaeological evidence for human activity and settlement through post glacial time and during different cultural periods.
The area described includes all or parts of the following subdivisions identified by a recognisable salient feature in the landscape:

AREA 1 Redmire South,
Comprising all or parts of KM2: SE0492, SE0493,
SE0592, SE0593.

Thorny Bank Hill, Grasper Bank
and Low Scar Pastures south of Redmire Quarry

1 Lithic sites.
2. Ring cairn on Thorny bank Hill.
3. Fragmented field system and cairnfield.
4. Burnt mounds 4No.
5. Unenclosed round house settlement
at Low Scar.
6. Unenclosed house platform settlement below Low Scar.
7. Extensive lead and zinc (calamine) mining remains, including the Cobscar Smelt Mill, flue and chimney and large moss dam.
8. Botanical records.
Area 2, Redmire North, comprising:
Redmire Forest, Forest Gill, Hassocks, Tewfit How. SE0494
SE0594
Coal pit shafts.
The roads to the coal mines.
Otherwise not yet field walked.
Area 3 Preston Moor South, comprising:
Preston Quarry, Stopmore Rake,
Chaytor Rake Terry Plain and Broomber Rigg SE0692, SE0693,
SE0792,
SE0793. Lithic scatters.
Ring cairn.
Isolated burial mounds.
Unenclosed settlement and field system.
The only well preserved palisade enclosure recognised to date in th NE Pennines.
The largest (in area) curvilinear stone banked enclosure so far recognised in the NE Pennines, with associated hut circles.
Burnt mounds 2No.
Extensive lead mining remains including mine shops.
Area 4
Preston Moor North
Comprising:
Forest Gill, Candle House Rigg, Far Cranehow and Robin Cross Hill SE0594, SE0595

SE0694,
SE0695
SE0794 Coal pit shafts.
The roads to the coal mines.
Otherwise not yet field walked.

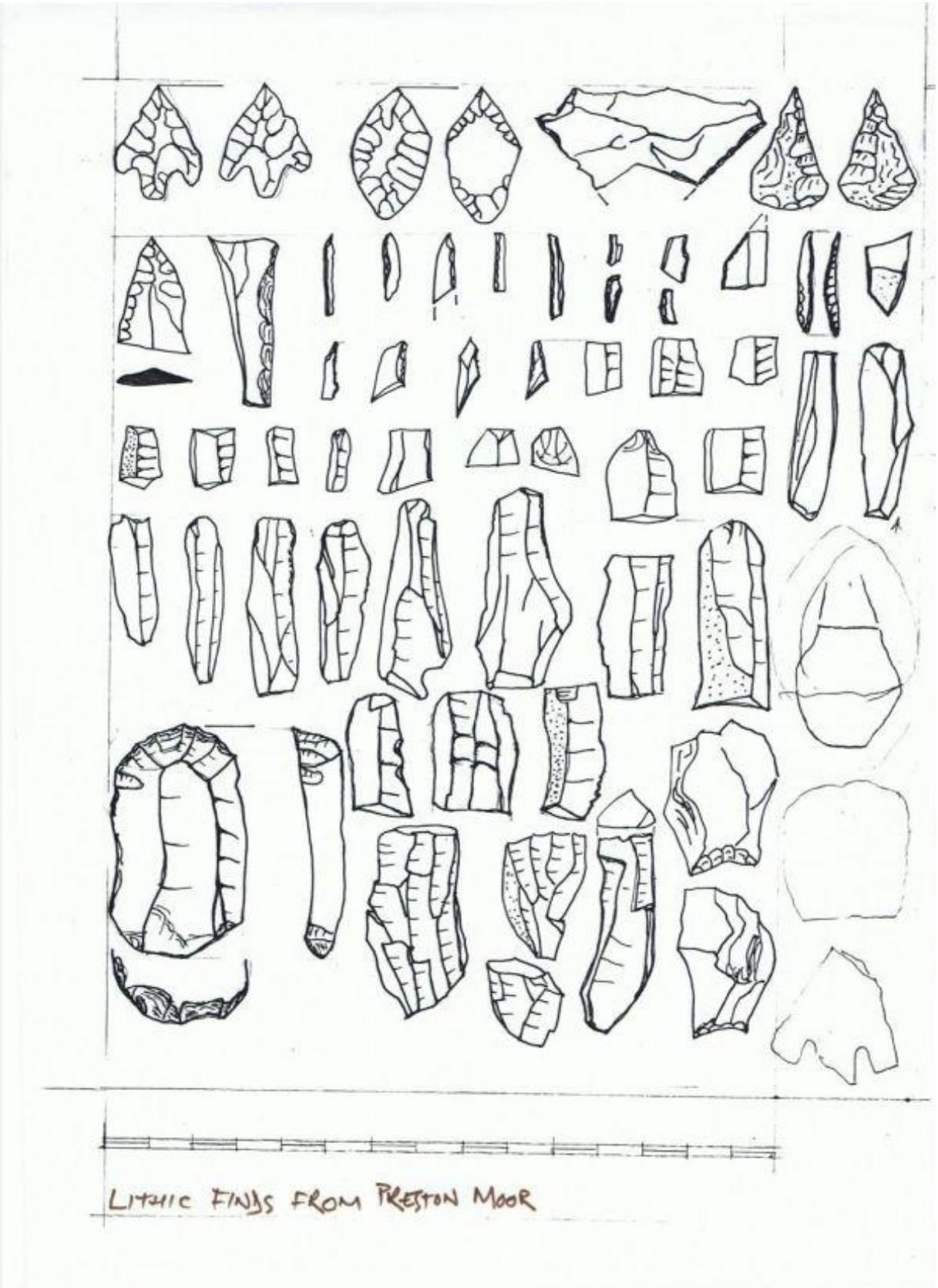
SE060940 centre

Dimensions: N.A.
Additional Notes: This record should be considered as work in progress and further details will be added from time to time.
Individual sites and finds will each be recorded and described seperately on this database.
Last Update: 2011-04-24

Record Number 175 >>> Image 1: Ring cairn at Thorny Bank Hill

Record Number 175 >>> Image 2: Ring cairn at Thorny Bank Hill

Record Number 175 >>> Image 3: Ring Cairn at Thorny bank Hill



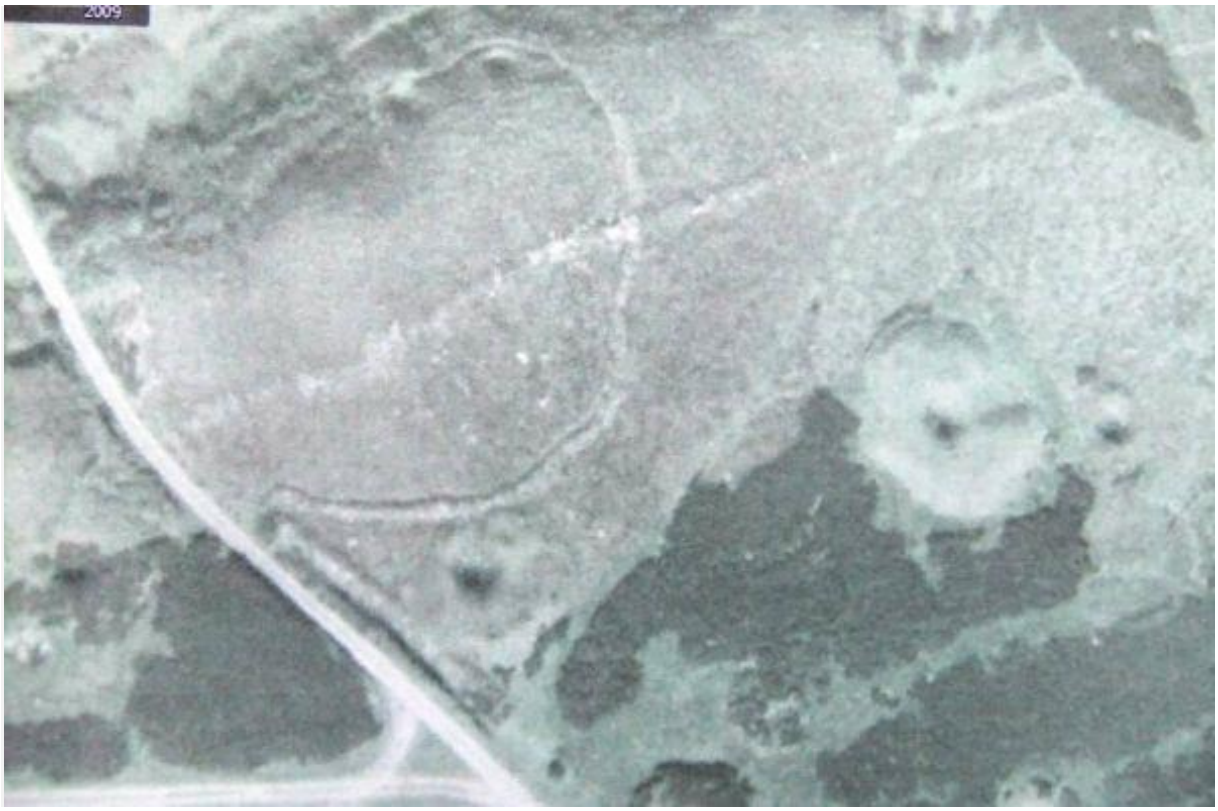
Record Number 175 >>> Image 4: Lithic Finds. Preston Quarry, Laurie 2003, Figure 64. Finds in the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

Record Number 175 >>> Image 5: Lithic finds. Preston Quarry.

Record Number 175 >>> Image 6: Lithic finds. Preston Quarry.

Record Number 175 >>> Image 7: Grasper Bank Springs. Burnt Mound. View southeard to Cobscar Rake and Mine Shop.

Record Number 175 >>> Image 8: Grasper Bank Springs. Burnt Mound. View southeard to Cobscar Rake and Mine Shop.



Record Number 175 >>> Image 9: Palisade Enclosure crossed by later stone banked enclosure. Google Earth Image.

Record Name: Ring cairn at North Gang Scar, Kisdon.
SWAAG ID Number: 270
Recorded Date: 2011-08-10 10:23:22
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2011-08-08
Location: Kisdon. North Gang Scar. Edge of terrace
Civil Parish: Muker
British National Grid: #SD 90531 99844
Altitude: 411m
Geology: Terrace formed by the Main Limestone.
Description: Small ringwork defined by a relatively substantial limestone ring bank faced on both sides with occasional orthostats (ie,limestone slabs set on edge, now usually leaning) with small stone infill between the faces.
This ringwork is best defined as a ring cairn. Ring cairns (or enclosed cremation cemetaries) are funerary monuments which date to the early to mid bronze
age.
The absence of an entrance and the location of this ringwork at the very edge of the terrace mitigates against this being a very small hut circle.
Dimensions: 5.2m diameter overall, 4.5m diameter internally.
Additional Notes: Ring cairns are the more frequent of the many small burial/cremation monuments of Bronze Age date within the NE Pennine Dales and they meet the same or similar purpose as stone cairns or barrow mounds except that they are associated with cremation burials,ie the remains of cremations-ashes, contained within colared urns, rather than inhumation.

Last Update: 2011-08-10

Record Number 270 >>> Image 1: Kisdon, North Gang Scar. Ring cairn at edge of terrace.

Record Number 270 >>> Image 2: Kisdon, North Gang Scar. Ring cairn at edge of terrace.

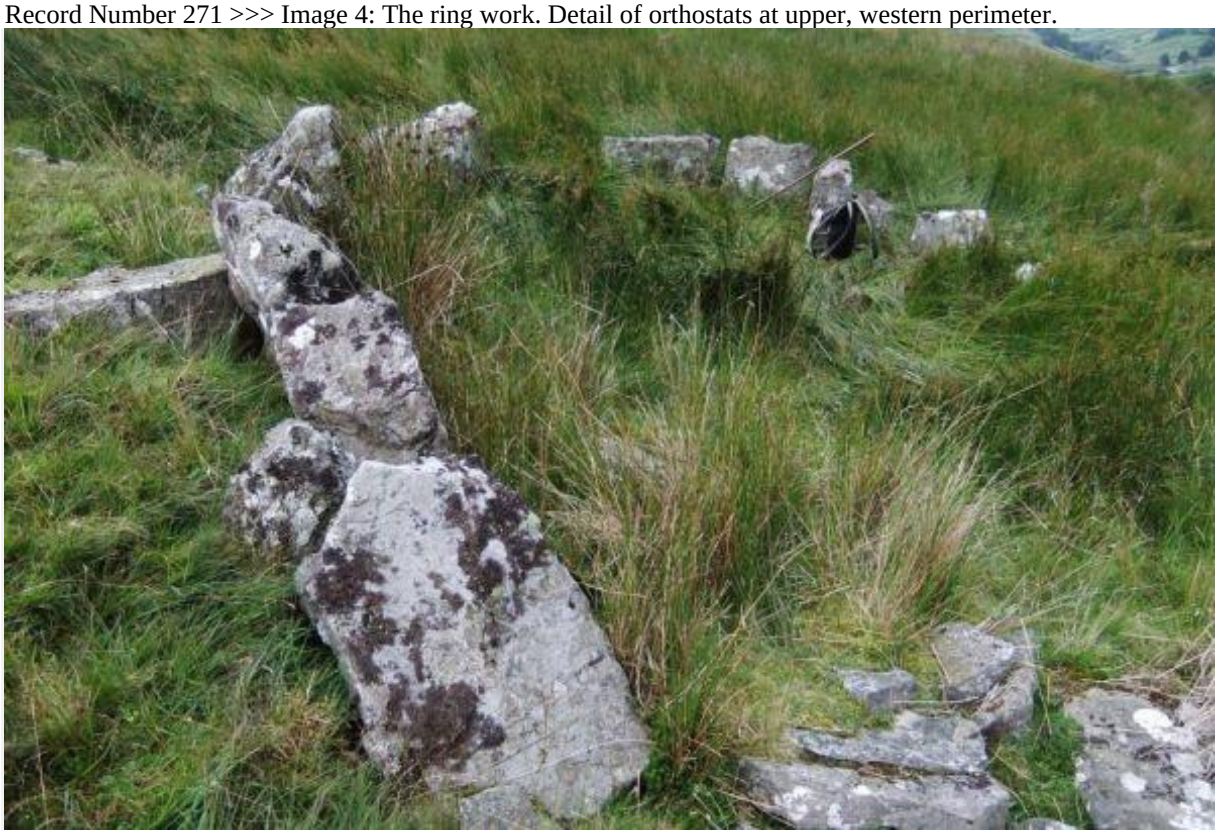
Record Name: Ring cairn like structure at spring above East Stonesdale Beck
SWAAG ID Number: 271
Recorded Date: 2011-08-21 11:40:00
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2011-08-15
Location: East Stonesdale
Civil Parish: Muker
British National Grid: #NY 89844 01908
Altitude: #410m
Geology: Calcareous spring rise below Crow Limestone
Description: Ringwork on sloping west facing ground enclosing a spring rise. The higher eastern perimeter being defined by contiguous stone slabs set on edge (orthostats). The lower western perimeter is defined by a low stone bank which is in part obscured (but still detectable) below the growing marsh. This stone ring is located like a bead on the line of a stone bank which forms the perimeter of a curvilinear stone banked enclosure with adjacent hut circle (see next site record. The enclosure bank abuts and does not cross the stone ring which must surely predate the enclosure.
This ringwork has the general appearance of a prehistoric stone ring although since it encloses a spring head this feature may have been constructed to keep stock animals oaway from a source of drinking water.
There is the possibility that this ring was constructed to enhance the spring head which may have held some significance as a 'holy well' type of location. The ring may mark the location of a burial.
At least two further stone orthostatic ring banked enclosures of similar dimensions and construction are known in Swaledale.
First recognised on 15 August 2011 by Norman Mahaffy, Tim and Eileen Laurie and Linda Robinson during a botanical excursion.
Dimensions: 6m diameter overall.
Additional Notes: While recorded seperately, this feature should be considered in context with the adjacent enclosure and hut circle which can be regarded as an unenclosed settlement.
Last Update: 2011-08-31

Record Number 271 >>> Image 1: The general location of the settlement encosure and ring cairn like structure

Record Number 271 >>> Image 2: The ring work enclosing the spring head.

Record Number 271 >>> Image 3: The ring work. Detail of orthostats at upper, western perimeter.

Record Number 271 >>> Image 4: The ring work. Detail of orthostats at upper, western perimeter.



Record Number 271 >>> Image 5: The ring work. Detail of orthostats at upper, western perimeter.

Record Number 271 >>> Image 6: The ring work. Detail of orthostats at upper, western perimeter.

Record Number 271 >>> Image 7: The ring work. Detail of orthostats at upper, western perimeter.

Record Name: ELL06 Army Ranges, Ellerton Moor. Ring cairn at head of Juniper Gill
SWAAG ID Number: 392
Recorded Date: 2011-12-10 11:15:28
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Army Range
Record Date: 2005-01-01
Location: Ellerton Moor
Civil Parish: Ellerton Abbey
British National Grid: SE 075 959
Altitude: 362m
Geology: Strata above the Main Limestone.
Description: See Line and offset survey sketch plan, Figure 1.
Low stone dump ringwork with some facing stones 13m internal diameter, 17m external diameter.
Crossed by track and slighted by some stone robbing. Difficult to see in thick heather.
Vulnerable to moor road surface improvement works!

NOTE! ARMY RANGE DANGER AREA!
This site is on an active Army Firing Range.
Access is NOT ALLOWED without express written permission from the Army Range Authorities.
Additional Notes: This ringwork has been scheduled as a Ring Cairn, and Ring Cairn it may be. However there is the equal possiblity that this ring work is an unenclosed round house associated with the field system and cairnfield located some 300m to the north west, see Figures 1 and 4 attached. In support of the interpretation as a ring cairn, this ringwork could be considered, together with the large (for this area)isolated round cairn (Ell04) and Standing Stone (ELL07) as marking the importance of this location as the point where the high escarpment above the Eden Valley first becomes visible through Arkengarthdale and across Stainmore. THe Moor Edge above Juniper Gill is on the line of the lowest and easiest approach through Arkengarthdale to the Stainmore Pass. The braided trackways and paths followed by the Galloway Cattle Drovers from Alston through Teeddale and named the Badger Way after the itinerent tinkers who also used it(See Raistrick 'Green Tracks across the Pennines') may well also have been a prehistoric routeway from the South and East (from the Vale of Mowbray) to the North and west (To the Eden Valley and northward to Galloway) The stone circle at Mudbeck (Thom 19XX)is at the point where the A66 at Rey Cross(and ring cairn within the Rey Cross Roman Marching Camp,see Vyner et al 2003) first becomes visible across Stainmore. However, these romantic thoughts must nor preclude an equal interpretation that the Juniper Gil Ringwork may be an unenclosed round house of Middle Bronze Age date associated with the cairnfield and coaxial field system located west of Juniper Gill. (ELL05)

SWAAG Site: Ellerton Moor
Last Update: 2011-12-10

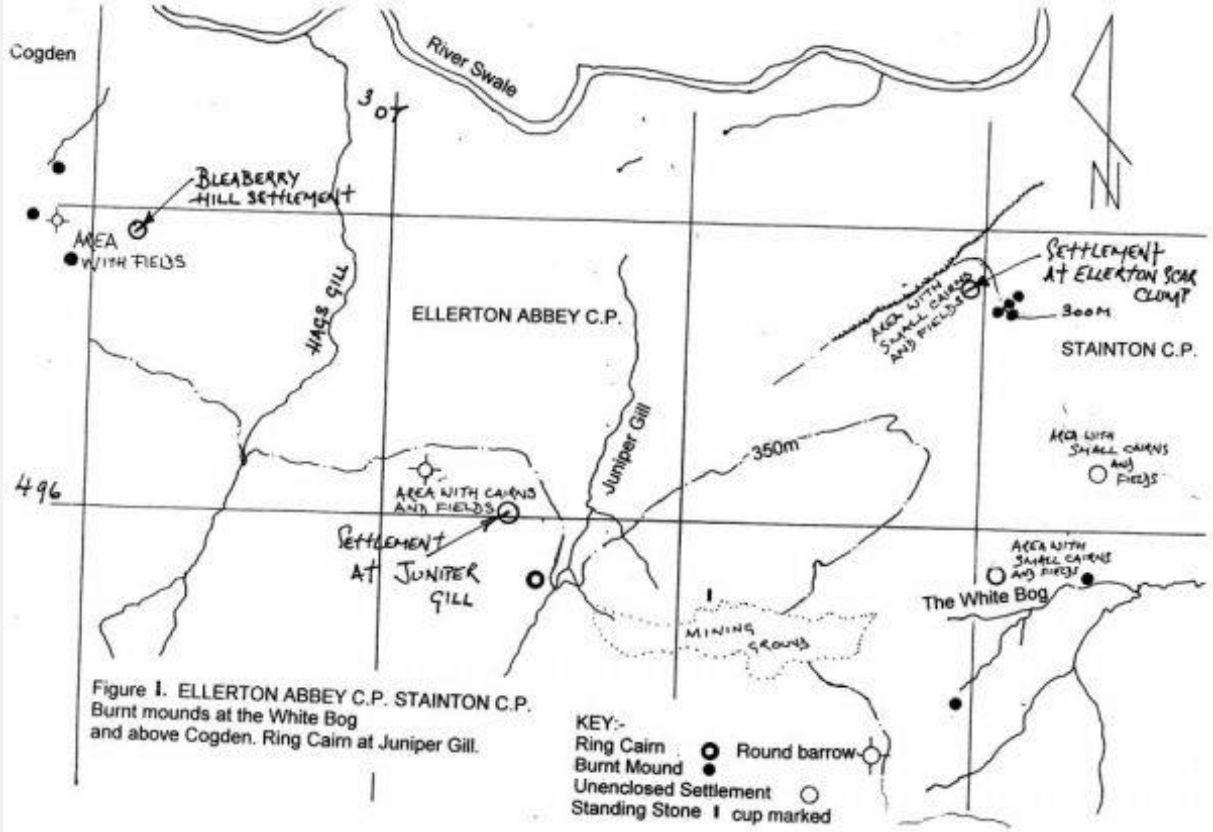
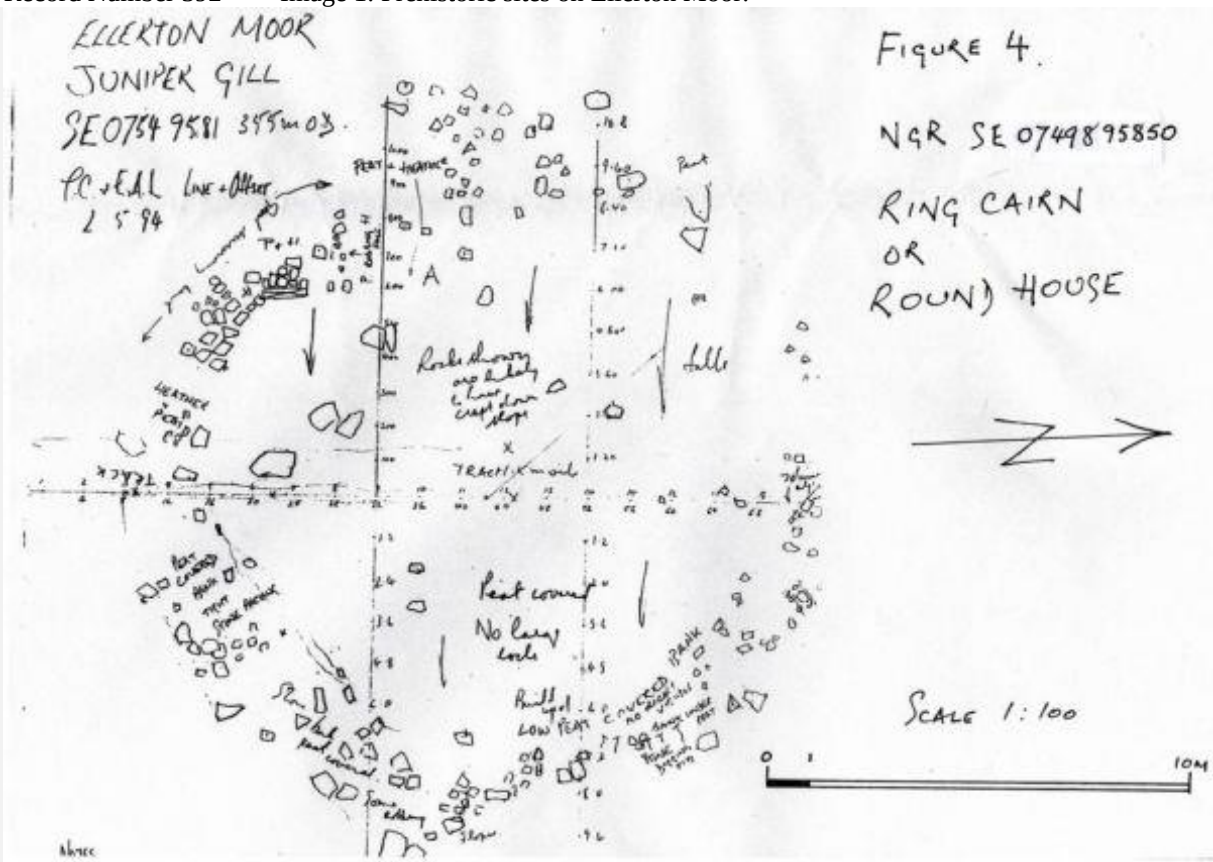


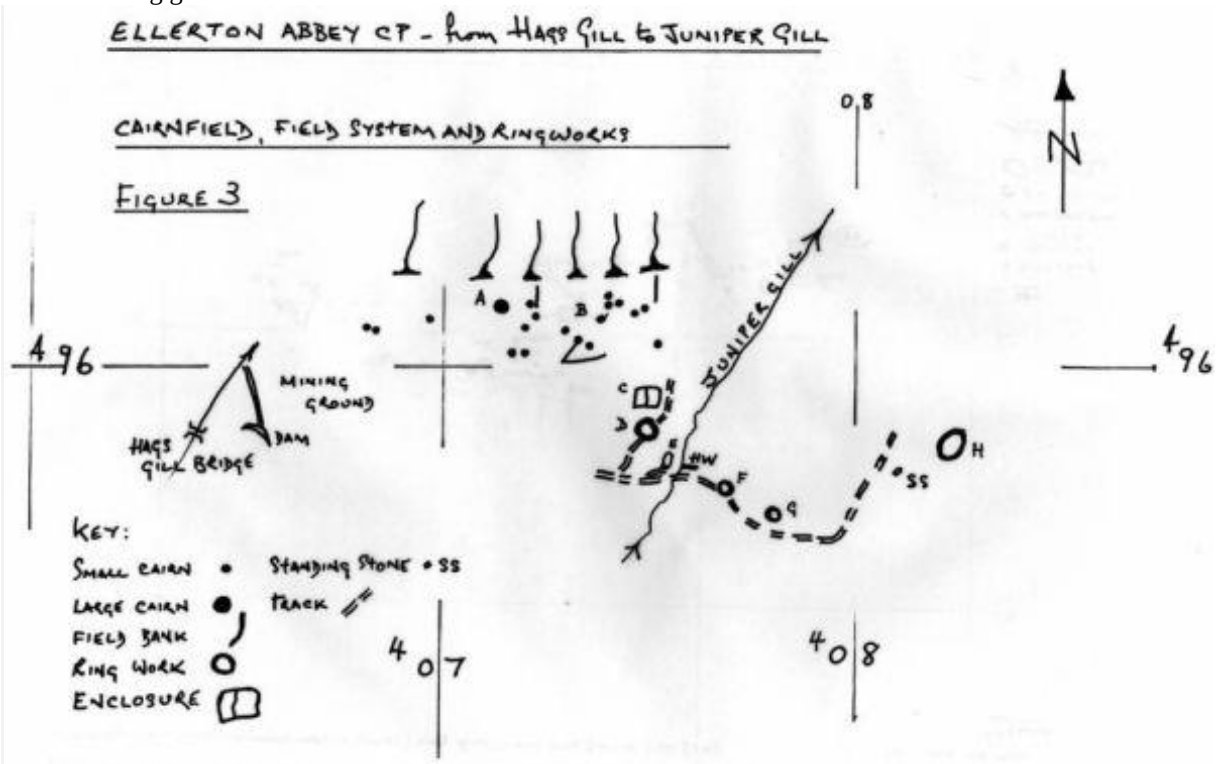
Figure 1. ELLERTON ABBEY C.P. STAINTON C.P.
Burnt mounds at the White Bog
and above Cogden. Ring Cairn at Juniper Gill.

Record Number 392 >>> Image 1: Prehistoric sites on Ellerton Moor.



Record Number 392 >>> Image 2: Sketch Plan of the ringwork. 1:100.

Record Number 392 >>> Image 3: The head of Juniper Gill from new access road to the east. Ringwork is on the rising ground mid distance.



Record Number 392 >>> Image 4: Location Plan. Prehistoric Sites from Hags Gill to Ellerton Scar. Ringwork is Site D

Record Name: Ring Cairn at Scarth Nick.
SWAAG ID Number: 439
Recorded Date: 2012-01-26 15:38:50
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Footpath
Record Date: 2005-08-06
Location: Preston Scar. Scarth Nick.
Civil Parish: Not known
British National Grid: #SE 0662 9157
Altitude: 320m
Geology: Main Limestone. Remnant of quarried Scar.
Description: Ring cairn some 18m diameter overall, located at top edge of Limestone cliff. Wide views to south and west. Field banks also a remnant of a field system nearby.
This is a classic example of a ring cairn, consisting of a 3m wide (approx) stone dump circular bank enclosing a clear area, and is undisturbed except for a shallow pit recently excavated at the centre. Unsurveyed.
Additional Notes: This Ring Cairn or Enclosed Cremation Cemetary could be regarded as a type site for the rather numerous ring cairns in Wensleydale and should be respected as one of the very few unexcavated and undisturbed example of a very significant class of Bronze Age Funerary Monument.
SWAAG Site: Preston Moor
Last Update: 2012-01-31

Record Number 439 >>> Image 1: The ring cairn, view southward to Penhill.

Record Number 439 >>> Image 2: The ring cairn

Record Number 439 >>> Image 3: The ring cairn

Record Number 439 >>> Image 4: The ring cairn, view westward.

Record Name: Ring cairn on summit of Goldsborough Hill. Cotherstone and the effects on the moorland vegetation of reduction of sheep.
SWAAG ID Number: 646
Recorded Date: 2012-11-25 14:50:09
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2012-11-23
Location: Cotherstone Moor. Goldsborough. Summit.
Civil Parish: Cotherstone
British National Grid: NY 95472 17687
Altitude: 387m
Geology: Namurian sandstone capped isolated hill.
Description: This embanked stone faced ring work some 11m diameter overall is interpreted here as a probable ring cairn and is defined by a circular stone dump earthfast bank with occasional unworked facing stones on both inner and outer faces. The Late Dennis Coggins first recorded this ring cairn during fieldwork in the early 1990's leading to the discovery of the grouped rock art sites on Goldsborough and subsequently those at West Loups Farm, see Laurie, T.C. 1992. 'The Archaeology of West Loups' in Catterick and Feldom Conservation Group Monograph Project '92: 'Battle Hill Ranges and Red Scar' pp 5-7 and Figure 1 (attached) and Beckensall and Laurie 1998 'Prehistoric Rock Art of Co. Durham, Wensleydale and Swaledale.' Durham County Books.
This ring cairn, as it is supposed to be, is one of very few similar ringworks not to have been excavated. The majority of these monuments also termed enclosed cremation cemetaries have been investigated by archaeologists, finds from these ringworks typically include cremation burials contained within collared urns, pygmy incense cups and date from the Neolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age.
The rock art sites recorded in this area are likely to predate the ring cairn, but do reflect the seasonal activity of Bronze Age and Neolithic transhumant pastoral family groups in this area.

Two of the most comprehensively excavated and published examples of ring cairns in the NW and NE of England include:
1. The multi period ringwork comprising double concentric ring timber post circle with overlying stone embanked ring cairn at Oddendale , near Shap excavated by Percival Turnbull and Deborah Walsh (Turnbull and Walsh 1997. ' A prehistoric Ritual Sequence at Oddendale, Near Shap.' Trans. Cumberland and Westmoreland A. & A. Soc Vol XCV11, 1997. pp11-44.
2. The ring cairn with standing stone, other ringworks and cairnfield at Danby Rigg on the NYM excavated by Prof. A.F. Harding et al. 1994. (Harding, A.F. et al. 1994. Archaeol. Journal 151 (1994), 16-97.)
Dimensions: 11m diameter overall
Additional Notes: Finally, attention is drawn to the fact that the moorland vegetaion on the summit of Goldsborough is today very different to that which was present when my earlier photo was taken during the 1990's. The stone bank of the ring cairn is clearly visible on the earlier photo which was taken during a field walk lead by me to Cotherstone Moor by members of a University of Leeds Extra Mural Class in the early 1990's. The ring bank is today very difficult to recognise as the moorland vegetation and the soft rushes are much more rampant and luxuriant following reduction in sheep headage and in the reduction of grazing the moor.
Last Update: 2012-11-25

Record Number 646 >>> Image 1: The ring cairn on the summit of Goldsborough photographed on 23 November 2012.

Record Number 646 >>> Image 2: The same ring cairn photographed during a field walk at the same time of year during the 1990's

Record Name: Stone walled ring bank at Scout Crag above Semer Water
SWAAG ID Number: 661
Recorded Date: 2012-12-10 18:24:13
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2005-01-01
Location: Countersett. Bardale, below Scout Crag
Civil Parish: Bainbridge
British National Grid: SD 878 864
Altitude: 520m
Geology: Drift covered slope below The Main Limestone
Description: Ring bank defined by a coursed limestone 'wall' interpreted as a ring cairn but in my view unlikely to be ancient.
All prehistoric ring cairns are defined by low circular banks of stone dump ie 'cairn' construction, which may be revetted with slabs set on edge, but which are never built of coursed stone as this ring is. It is however possible that this ring work is a burial as there is a central cairn. It may indeed mark the site of a recent human interment, or possibly that of a favourite horse or sheep dog!
Dimensions: See photo
Additional Notes: This site at Scout Crag has views down Bardale to Semer Water which are very fine. A place fit for a princely burial site!
Last Update: 2012-12-22

Record Number 661 >>> Image 1: The Scout Crag ring work

Record Number 661 >>> Image 2: Semerwater from Counterset Crag.

Record Name: Ring cairn on Goldsborough Hill Summit. Effect on visibility of archaeological sites of reduction of grazing.
SWAAG ID Number: 842
Recorded Date: 2014-12-30 11:12:33
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2014-12-24
Location: Teesdale. Cotherstone Moor. Summit of Goldsborough Hill.
Civil Parish: Cotherstone
British National Grid: NY 95474 17673
Altitude: 389m
Geology: Thin peat turf over Namurian sandstone bedrock.
Description: Despite the fact that Cotherstone Moor does today support a fine and healthy flock of Swaledale Sheep, see photos Nos 4 and 5 below,the effects of the general reduction of sheep numbers and the consequent increase here of soft rush (Juncus effusus), on the visibility of the Ring Cairn on the summit of Goldsborough Hill is plain to see. Earliest photo 1998, second photo October 2012, latest photo December 2014.

This effect is general across the Pennine Uplands. Dense heather, moorland coarse tussock forming grasses and sedges, which when ungrazed, equally contribute. Sites and features which were clear to see when subsidies were assigned to sheep numbers are now obscured and this will make moorland historic landscape interpretation much more difficult to understand and demonstrate.
Dimensions: See photos
Additional Notes: Rock art sites are now usually obscured or partially obscured by vegetation and especially difficult to locate. Moorland burning can damage the surface of carved rocks when covered with inflammable heather. The location and prior clearance of these rocks before periodic heather burns will be a priority.
Last Update: 2015-01-01

Record Number 842 >>> Image 1: Ring Cairn, Goldsborough Summit October 1998.

Record Number 842 >>> Image 2: Ring Cairn, Goldsborough Summit, difficult to see October 2012.

Record Number 842 >>> Image 3: Ring Cairn, Goldsborough Summit, totally obscured December 2014.

Record Number 842 >>> Image 4: Swaledales on the track leading to Goldsborough. The finest little sheep you will ever see!

Record Number 842 >>> Image 5: Swaledales on the track leading to Goldsborough. The finest little sheep you will ever see!

Record Name: Carperby Moor.Ring cairn or round house enclosure below Greenhaw Hut.
SWAAG ID Number: 853
Recorded Date: 2015-03-13 21:48:04
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 0000-00-00
Location: Carperby Moor. Little Wegber NE Slope Springs.
Civil Parish: Carperby Cum Thoresby
British National Grid: SD 99500 92103
Altitude: 397m
Geology: Valley slope glacial drift over strata below The Main Limestone
Description: Boulder revetted hill slope oval enclosure 16m* 11m overall with no visible entrance, trackway or other nearby structure indicating that this isolated feature was a round house. This isolated enclosure is located on the lower slopes at the head of the steep sided glaciated valley below Greenhow Hut, not named on the OS map, which is drained by a small stream which falls into Locker Tarn. In the first instance this feature is provisionally interpreted as a ring cairn. However as this enclosure is well sited as a dwelling just above the floor of the valley, the possibility that this is an isolated hut circle cannot be ruled out.
Dimensions: 16m*11m overall
Additional Notes: This ring bank was recognised after the survey which resulted in the publication of the Map showing Prehistoric sites on Carperby Moor, within Bolton East and West parks and above Redmire(see: Researching the Prehistory of Wensleydale, Swaledale and Teesdale, pp223-253 and Figure 61, in T.G. Manby et al. Eds. 'The Archaeology of Yorkshire: an assessment at the beginning of the 21st century.'Yorks. Arch. Soc. Occasional Paper No 3.
Last Update: 2015-04-05

Record Number 853 >>> Image 1: View to the ring bank, on slope centre right, from the North

Record Number 853 >>> Image 2: The stone revetted ring work from the North.

Record Number 853 >>> Image 3: View over the site southward over the Vale of Mowbray. North York Moors just visible in distance.

Record Number 853 >>> Image 4: The site is at the head of this shallow valley below GreenHaw Hut.

Record Number 853 >>> Image 5: Green Haw Hut from the edge of Carperby Moor.

Record Name: Ring cairn on east side of Beldon Beck. West Bolton Park.
SWAAG ID Number: 871
Recorded Date: 2015-03-28 17:34:54
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Ring Cairns
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2015-03-05
Location: Bolton West Park. Beldon Beck. East side.
Civil Parish: Castle Bolton with E and W Bol
British National Grid: SE 00806 92112
Altitude: 328m
Geology: Glacial till over limestone.
Description: Ring cairn defined by a continuous, low, circular 1.5m wide turf covered stone bank. No visible entrance. Approximately 12.5m diameter overall. Probably reduced by quarrying for stone. Indications of a central cairn.
This ring cairn is RC1 on the published Location Map (Laurie, 2003. Figure 61: Carperby Moor, Prehistoric Sites).
Dimensions: Approximately 12.5 m diameter overall.
Additional Notes: The siting of this slight ring bank at a vantage view point,the absence of any visible entrance and the small central cairn feature is characteristic of a ring cairn. In contrast,
a second stone ring bank of similar dimensions which is situated at the base of a fairly steep slope some 100m to the NE. This ring bank has an entrance in the SE quadrant and is best interpreted as a small round house associated with the field system on Bolton West Park to be recorded as a later SWAAG Record.
Last Update: 2015-04-03

Record Number 871 >>> Image 1: Beldon Beck Ring Cairn view westward.

Record Number 871 >>> Image 2: Beldon Beck Ring Cairn view northward.

Record Number 871 >>> Image 3: Beldon Beck Ring Cairn view eastward

Record Number 871 >>> Image 4: Beldon Beck Ring Cairn view southward