

Record Name: A small high level cairnfield settlement on Brownsey Moor

SWAAG ID Number: 919

Recorded Date: 2016-03-05 16:27:00

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Earthworks

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-03

Location: Brownsey Moor

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: SD 9770 9895

Altitude: 450m

Geology: Main and Richmond Cherts over the Main Limestone

Description: Slight stone field banks, clearance cairns and stone free areas defined by clearance edges on a high terrace mark the site of a high level settlement of Bronze Age Cairnfield character. No timber round house structures have been recognised, however their probable presence can be inferred on an adjacent level terrace.

These very slight but definite traces of human activity at an elevation of 450m AOD are surely among the highest and most exposed remains of cultivation and transient settlement by a small family group during prehistory.

It should be borne in mind that the climatic and woodland environment at all levels of Swaledale was very different during the Second Millenium BC. The climate during the Atlantic Period was warm and dry. Mixed deciduous woodland extended across all areas of what today is open heather moorland.

Very extensive cultivation remains similar to these are present at equivalent elevation on Fremington Edge and at slightly lower elevations on Grinton Moor, Harkerside and on Reeth Low Moor. (Laurie T.C. with N.W. Mahaffy and R.F. White, 2012 in R.D. Martlew, Ed. 'Prehistory in the Yorkshire Dales: recent research and future prospects. pp37-59'. ISBN 978-1-906604-35-6)

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: These slight remains characteristic of Bronze Age cultivation were first noted during a current programme of archaeological reconnaissance across areas of Swaledale not previously surveyed during the Swaledale Land Boundaries Project (Fleming A.F. and Laurie T.C. 1985-1994.)

Last Update: 2016-03-05



Record Number 919 >>> Image 1: Stone cairn, may contain a burial, but possibly just field clearance. Stone free areas between the cairns and field banks were cultivated following initial clearance of woodland.



Record Number 919 >>> Image 2: Stone dump field bank.



Record Number 919 >>> Image 3: The slight curve visible on this ver slight field bank may mark the location of a timber round house.



Record Number 919 >>> Image 4: The two large boulders mark a small circular cairn like feature.



Record Number 919 >>> Image 5: View westward from the cairnfield across the fields of Brownsey House

Record Name: Isolated field boundary at 490m elevation on Brownsey Moor Top above Brunts Hill

SWAAG ID Number: 920

Recorded Date: 2016-03-07 17:06:26

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Earthworks

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-04

Location: Brownsey Moor Top above Brunt Hill

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: SD 977 993

Altitude: 490m

Geology: Pennine Plateau. Richmond Cherts over The Main Limestone

Description: Isolated boundary bank on Brownsey Moor Edge at 490m elevation. This substantial boundary bank of stone dump construction is identical in appearance to the prehistoric Iron Age coaxial field boundaries recorded on Reeth Low Moor, Marrick Moor, Skelton Moor, Grinton Moor and on Harkerside Moor during the Swaledale Ancient Land Boundaries Project (Fleming and Laurie 1985-1994). However this boundary is of different design and purpose and may well be of a very different date. The uppermost length of boundary bank only is recorded here where it rises from the steep scarp edge immediately above Staney Gill Hole to cross Brownsey Moor End and then descend down over Brunt Hill to cross the moorland below down to Featham Pasture.

Dimensions: See photographs

Additional Notes: This record is a preliminary photographic note of this interesting boundary which is currently being recorded within a reconnaissance of the Historic Landscapes on Melbecks Moor.

Last Update: 2016-08-01



Record Number 920 >>> Image 1: Telephoto of the boundary from Brownsey Moor with view down through Swaledale



Record Number 920 >>> Image 2:



Record Number 920 >>> Image 3: The boundary is well seen where exposed by recent heather burning.



Record Number 920 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 920 >>> Image 5:

Record Name: Large round cairn (quarried remnant) and small cairnfield settlement complex on Featham Pasture

SWAAG ID Number: 921

Recorded Date: 2016-03-09 09:45:59

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burial Mounds and Cairns

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 0000-00-00

Location: Featham Pasture

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: SD 984 991

Altitude: 400m

Geology: Glacial drift on strata above the Five yard Limestone.

Description: Large round cairn (quarried remnant) and small cairnfield settlement partially revealed by recent heather burn north of the track which traverses Featham Pasture. This small cairnfield complex is centred on the round cairn 12.3m*10.5m diameter which has been quarried for building stone down to ground level. Sufficient basal stones survive to define the perimeter of this substantial cairn although all large stones have been removed.

The cairnfield settlement associated with the round cairn consists of fragmentary lengths of stone dump field banks and several small stone cairns which may contain burials but most will be just field clearance heaps.

When first recognised in thick heather this quarried round cairn was interpreted as a hut circle, however the recent heather burn has allowed a reconsideration and revealed the stone cairn material and stone robbing voids which determine the original form of this feature.

Dimensions: Partially visible where heather has been burned.

Additional Notes: This cairnfield site is only partially visible. The full extent of the site is concealed beneath thick heather.

Cairnfield settlements are the settlement form most prevalent during the Bronze Age across Northern Upland Britain and may be very large, as at Danby Rig on the NYM with more than 1000 stone cairns (Harding, A.F.1994.'Prehistoric and early medieval activity on Danby Rigg, North Yorkshire'.*Archaeol. Journal.* 151, 16-96.) and those of medium extent at Harker Mires on Harkerside Moor, below Cringley Hill on Reeth Low Moor and on Fremington Edge (Laurie,T.C., 1985. *British Archaeological Rpts. Brit.Series* 143, 135-162.) Cairnfields may be defined by the presence of numbers of stone cairns or clearance heaps with occasional isolated round houses within small paddock like field systems or just fragmentary stone dump field banks. Funerary monuments associated with cairnfield include large round cairns and occasional stone cist burials below small kerbed cairns. Burnt mounds are often present.

A large cairnfield settlement complex has recently been fully surveyed on the WD Range on Ellerton Moor, at Juniper Rigg, for details see SWAAG Record No 394

Last Update: 2016-03-09



Record Number 921 >>> Image 1: Remnant of round cairn 12m diameter quarried down to ground level. Revealed by recent heather burn.



Record Number 921 >>> Image 2: The round cairn is sited at a vantage point with fine views eastward through Swaledale. Similar large round cairns recorded below Cringley Hill, on Ellerton Moor and on Fremington Edge. These cairns are all intervisible.



Record Number 921 >>> Image 3: The round cairn is sited at a vantage point which also enjoys fine views to Upper Swaledale. A similar large round cairn has been recorded on Low Row Pasture above Barf Scar.



Record Number 921 >>> Image 4: Possible round house platform and clearance close to the Round Cairn



Record Number 921 >>> Image 5: Stone founded round house in heather close to the track which traverses Featham Moor (One of two round houses here).



Record Number 921 >>> Image 6: Spring rise managed as a reliable water supply. The prehistoric settlements on Featham Pasture are centred at this spring.

Record Name: Featham Pasture. Brunt Hill south slope. Large burnt mound at spring rise.

SWAAG ID Number: 922

Recorded Date: 2016-03-15 21:02:18

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burnt Mound

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-14

Location: Featham Pasture. Brunt Hill south slope

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: SD 98058 99198

Altitude: 435m

Geology: Spring rise below the Underset Limestone.

Description: Large, 10m diameter mound of highly consolidated fire cracked, reddened and fissured sandstone located on the eastern bank of a spring rise on the steep lower slope of Brunt Hill. A large clump of soft rush indicates the location of the trough, at the top of the mound. A circular setting of large rocks indicates the presence of a hearth. Troughs and hearths are constant features of these sites.

This burnt mound site, interpreted as a sweat house/sauna of late Neolithic to mid Bronze Age date can be regarded as one element in the Later Prehistoric, Bronze Age landscape of Unenclosed Round House Settlements, Cairnfields and Round Cairns only now being recorded on Featham Pasture. See also SWAAG Record Nos .

Massed fragments of burnt stone are visible at several erosion patches, see photos. The top of this mound has been levelled and probably supported a timber framed, hide covered tent like structure.

The existence of an abandoned spring rise directly above the present spring rise and the mound indicates that the water table on this hill slope has subsequently dropped.

Dimensions: 10m diameter excluding the trough.

Additional Notes: This large burnt mound is located at the spring rise location most characteristic of these sites. Evidence of ethnology (the fact that indigenous people so considered) informs us that Springs may have been regarded by Late Neolithic/Bronze Age people as the interface between the land of the living and the underworld- the watery land of the dead where every living thing has its mirror image.(Reference: Alex Loktionov, 2012, see Publications Section of this Web Site)

Last Update: 2016-03-15



Record Number 922 >>> Image 1: The burnt mound is on the far side of the spring which, with two recent troughs-one of stone and one of wood, has been managed by the farms who share this pasture, as a

water supply.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 2: The levelled top of the burnt mound is now covered below green moss.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 3: The fire cracked reddened sandstone core is revealed at erosion

patches.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 4: Setting of large rocks mark the site of one of the hearths which are always present in the vicinity of these sites.



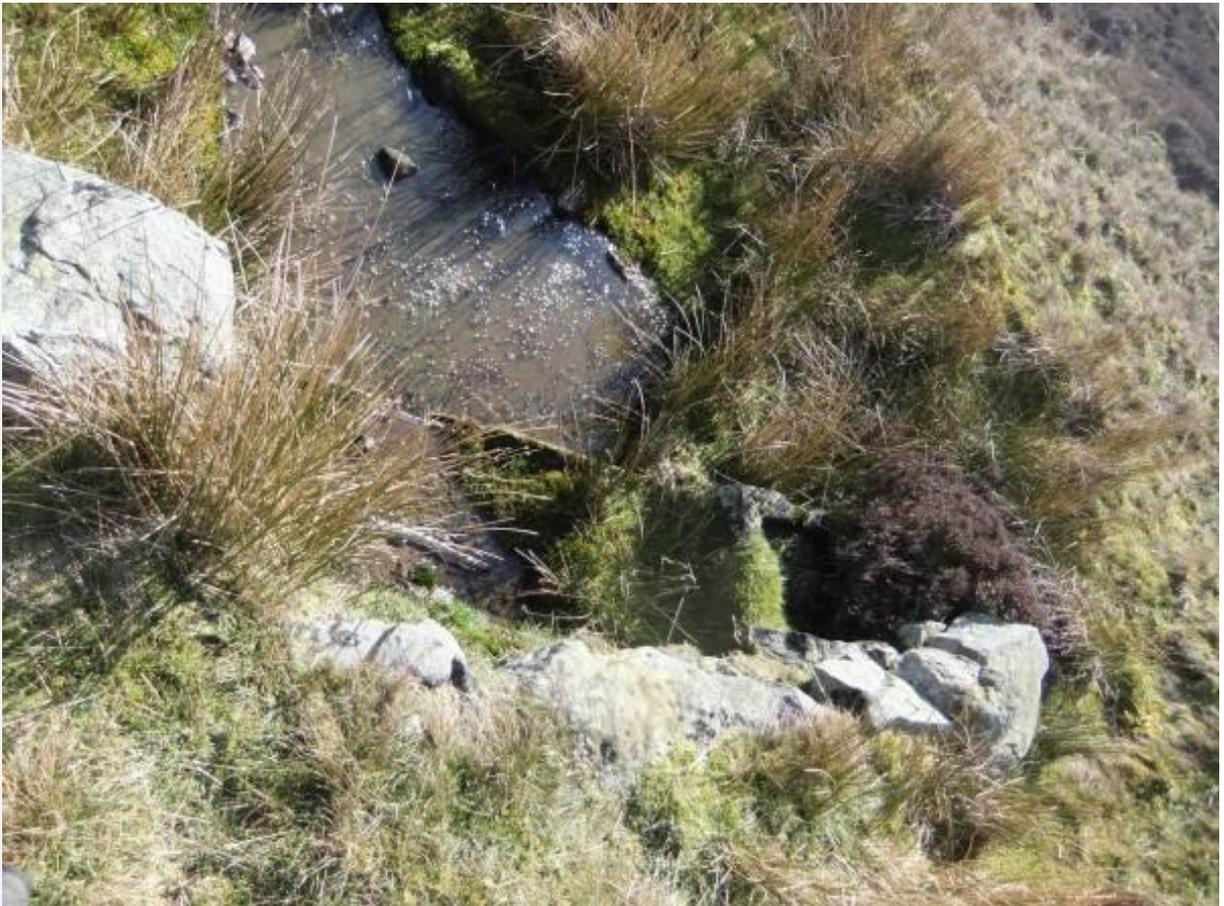
Record Number 922 >>> Image 5: The spring rise and mound.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 6: The spring rise.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 7: the bright moss covered levelled top of the mound.



Record Number 922 >>> Image 8: Two troughs, one of stone and one of wood show that this constant spring is managed as a supply of water scares on this moor.

Record Name: Harkerside Moor. Browna Gill. Lead Bale with indications that copper were minerals present within the ores smelted

SWAAG ID Number: 923

Recorded Date: 2016-03-18 16:57:27

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-17

Location: Harkerside Moor. Glacial hummock on East side of Browna Gill.

Civil Parish: Grinton

British National Grid: SE 01051 97529

Altitude: 363m

Geology: Hummocky glacial drift over sandstones.

Description: Group of lead bales sites (NMR Sites 236,237, 238 and 339) recorded previously, Reference: Richard Smith 2006. British Mining No 80, page 103. This group of lead bales is located on the more southerly of two glacial hummocks East of Browna Gill. Moderate amounts of yellow-coated slag, burnt sandstone and charcoal were recorded to be present. This SWAAG Record draws attention to the presence of slag at Site 238 with traces of bright blue-green azurite copper ore. See photograph images 3 and 4 below. Site 339 in this Group is Radiocarbon dated to 1300AD.

Dimensions: See photos 4 and 5 below

Additional Notes: For full details of the Bale Sites at Browna Gill and other Bale Sites in Swaledale and adjacent areas, see: Richard Smith 2006. British Mining No 80, page 103.

SWAAG Site: Harkerside Moor

Last Update: 2016-03-21



Record Number 923 >>> Image 1: The Bale site.



Record Number 923 >>> Image 2: The Bale site



Record Number 923 >>> Image 3: Brassy slag with traces of vivid blue/green Azurite? copper ore.



Record Number 923 >>> Image 4: Brassy slag with traces of vivid blue/green Azurite copper ore.

Record Name: Late Mesolithic microlith

SWAAG ID Number: 924

Recorded Date: 2016-03-25 16:54:09

Recorded by: Ric Carter

Category: Lithic Find / Scatter

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-20

Location: Cogden Moor, above Cogden Gill

Civil Parish: Grinton

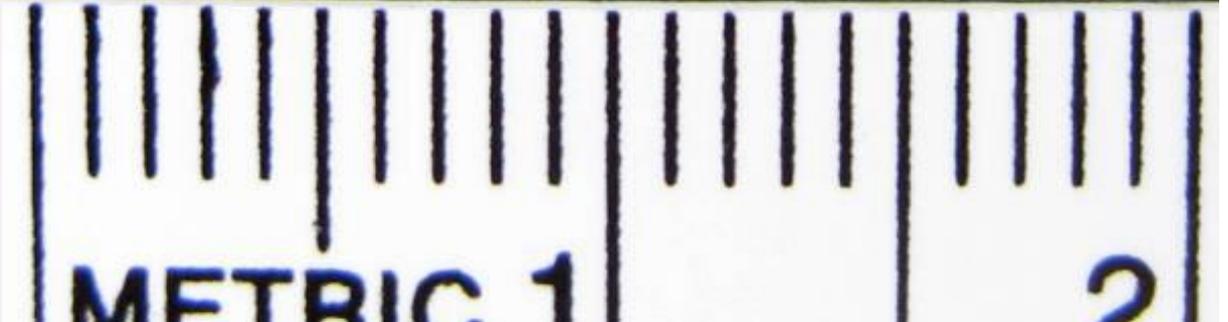
British National Grid: #SE 051 972

Altitude: 300m

Description: A fine example of a late Mesolithic narrow-blade microlith point of white/white patinated flint with retouch to both long edges; a stray (molehill) find on the higher ground to the East of Cogden Gill below the pastures.

Dimensions: 18 mm x 4mm (max.)

Last Update: 2016-03-25



Record Number 924 >>> Image 1: microlith



Record Number 924 >>> Image 2: microlith

Record Name: Burnt mound on Crackpot Side north west of Summer Lodge Farm.

SWAAG ID Number: 925

Recorded Date: 2016-04-04 14:35:41

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burnt Mound

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Private

Record Date: 2016-04-03

Location: Crackpot Side. Summer Lodge.

Civil Parish: Grinton

British National Grid: SD 96144 95843

Altitude: 373m

Geology: Stream flushed pasture on glacial drift.

Description: Large burnt mound located in steeply sloping pasture on western bank of small spring stream.

This characteristic burnt mound comprises a large, highly compacted and turf covered mound of fire-cracked and reddened sandstone fragments on the downslope side of a central trough marked by the usual rushes together with a smaller mound and two circular levelled hut platforms upslope of the trough. See photographs.

This burnt mound is the first to be recorded within Little Haverdale. Further sites may be expected to exist in this area. The burnt mounds previously recorded to be nearest to this site are at spring rises on the upper dale side above Spring End. See SWAAG Database Record Nos

Dimensions: 9m*6m*.1.2m high approximately

Additional Notes: This burnt mound is of particular interest in that burnt mounds can be regarded as providing evidence for Transhumance during Prehistory, i.e. seasonal occupation of high limestone pastures by family groups of pastoralist herdsmen with their animals during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age. The burnt mounds being evidence for the presence of their seasonally occupied camps on the Summer Pastures located close to the most constant springs. Summer Lodge is so named as the location of just such a summer pasture occupied by Medieval and Post Medieval herdsmen moving up from their farms located lower down in the Dale.

Last Update: 2016-04-04



Record Number 925 >>> Image 1: View westward across the burnt mound to Bloody Vale



Record Number 925 >>> Image 2: View southward to Summer Lodge Moor over one of two hut platforms above the Burnt Mound.



Record Number 925 >>> Image 3: View South East to Summer Lodge Pasture



Record Number 925 >>> Image 4: View North East down to Swaledale



Record Number 925 >>> Image 5: Detail showing spring and rushes marking location of trough



Record Number 925 >>> Image 6: Fire cracked stone from this mound.

Record Name: Isolated field boundary at 490m elevation on Brownsey Moor Top above Brunts Hill

SWAAG ID Number: 926

Recorded Date: 2016-04-04 15:49:01

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Earthworks

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-03-04

Location: Brownsey Moor Top above Brunt Hill

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: SD 977 993

Altitude: 490m

Geology: Pennine Plateau. Richmond Cherts over The Main Limestone

Description: Isolated boundary bank on Brownsey Moor Edge at 490m elevation. This substantial boundary bank of stone dump construction is identical in appearance to the prehistoric Iron Age coaxial field boundaries recorded on Reeth Low Moor, Marrick Moor, Skelton Moor, Grinton Moor and on Harkerside Moor during the Swaledale Ancient Land Boundaries Project (Fleming and Laurie 1985-1994). However this boundary is of different design and purpose and may well be of a very different date. The uppermost length of boundary bank only is recorded here where it rises from the steep scarp edge immediately above Staney Gill Hole to cross Brownsey Moor End and then descend down over Brunt Hill to cross the moorland below down to Featham Pasture.

Dimensions: See photographs

Additional Notes: This record is a preliminary photographic note of this interesting boundary which is currently being recorded within a reconnaissance of the Historic Landscapes on Melbecks Moor.

Last Update: 2016-08-02



Record Number 926 >>> Image 1: Telephoto of the boundary from Brownsey Moor with view down through Swaledale



Record Number 926 >>> Image 2:



Record Number 926 >>> Image 3: The boundary is well seen where exposed by recent heather burning.



Record Number 926 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 926 >>> Image 5:

Record Name: Quarryman's Shelter
SWAAG ID Number: 927
Recorded Date: 2016-04-04 16:37:41
Recorded by: Ric Carter
Category: Mining Related
Record Type: Mining
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2016-04-03
Location: Below Fremington Edge
Civil Parish: Reeth
British National Grid: #SE 046 997

Description: Just off the public road up to the White House, below Fremington Edge, is a small, old, disused quarry usually overgrown with vegetation but at this time of year a rudimentary hearth could be found within the likely ruins of a quarryman's shelter and with this kettle still in situ - for one last brew!
Last Update: 2016-07-28



Record Number 927 >>> Image 1: Hearth



Record Number 927 >>> Image 2: Time for a last brew!

Record Name: Two medium burnt mounds on Braithwaite Moor associated with a high level Bronze Age Cairnfield Settlement
SWAAG ID Number: 928
Recorded Date: 2016-04-06 13:01:37
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Burnt Mound
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 0000-00-00
Location: Braithwaite Moor, Ewe Lock Spring
Civil Parish: East Witton
British National Grid: SE 111 851
Altitude: 370m
Geology: Spring rise below Lower Follifoot Grit
Description: Two burnt mounds located on opposing banks of a small stream below Ewe Lock Spring.
Dimensions: 8m*6m*.5m and 5m dia*.5m
Additional Notes: These burnt mounds are located directly below and may be associated with the Bronze Age cairn field type settlement below Strut Steer first recognised by TCL during the 1980's and mapped in 2006 by TCL with Andrew Fleming. The area was revisited more recently by a few SWAAG Members, photographed and recorded as SWAAG Record No 690.
Last Update: 2016-04-06



Record Number 928 >>> Image 1: The upper of two medium size burnt mounds at Ewe Lock Spring.



Record Number 928 >>> Image 2: The upper of two medium size burnt mounds at Ewe Lock Spring.



Record Number 928 >>> Image 3: View Northward across Wensleydale from the burnt mound



Record Number 928 >>> Image 6: Ring cairn within the cairnfield settlement complex.



Record Number 928 >>> Image 7: Ring cairn within the cairnfield settlement complex.



Record Number 928 >>> Image 8: Field bank under heather when first recognised, with EAL.



Record Number 928 >>> Image 9: Andrew Fleming with EAL during an early visit in the 1980's to this impressive high level Bronze Age site.

Record Name: A walk to Summer Lodge Tarn in spring.

SWAAG ID Number: 929

Recorded Date: 2016-04-12 20:09:47

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Photographic Record

Record Type: General HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-04-04

Location: Summer Lodge Tarn

Civil Parish: Grinton

British National Grid: SD 950 950

Altitude: 525m

Geology: Tarn, probably dammed and artificial on Lower Howgate Edge Grit.

Description: A walk to Summer Lodge Tarn, occupied by several hundred (black headed?) gulls.

Last Update: 2016-07-24



Record Number 929 >>> Image 1: The walk starts with a climb above the woodland on Scurvey Scar below the unsurfaced road south of Crackpot Farm



Record Number 929 >>> Image 2: Crackpot Gill, a different excursion see previous SWAAG Record No



Record Number 929 >>> Image 3: Summer Lodge Tarn



Record Number 929 >>> Image 4: On arrival at the Tarn several hundred gulls rose from the far shore and spiralled high on a thermal. Black headed gulls once bred on these Pennine tarns in great numbers. Click on image to see the gulls.



Record Number 929 >>> Image 5: Summer Lodge Tarn



Record Number 929 >>> Image 6: View from the Tarn to the frost-fractured white chert hillocks above Satron High Walls



Record Number 929 >>> Image 7: Woodland above Summer Lodge Farm



Record Number 929 >>> Image 8: Burnt mound recognised for the first time on Crackpot Side



Record Number 929 >>> Image 9: View over the burnt mound westward towards Bloody Vale



Record Number 929 >>> Image 10: Return to Summer Lodge Farm

Record Name: Basal stone of an Iron Age beehive quern made from a glacial erratic boulder of Shap Granite and lithic finds as evidence of long distance trade

SWAAG ID Number: 930

Recorded Date: 2016-04-24 15:57:37

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Archaeological Random Find

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public

Record Date: 2005-01-01

Location: Harlsey Castle. In stone dump by public roadside.

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: #SE 4136 9820

Description: This fragment of the basal stone is of considerable interest in that, rather than the usual local sandstone, it was made from Shap Granite and most probably from a glacial erratic boulder. Boulders of shap granite suitable for conversion into querns would be rather larger to that shown in the photos. Shap granite boulders of all sizes are widely distributed in the path of the Stainmore Glacier. This find confirms that glacial erratic boulders of all stone types, granite and gritstone were used as a source of querns.

Additional Notes: The distribution of stone artefacts of chert, volcanic ash and other lithic types has been used as evidence for long distance trade from the geological outcrop. This overlooks the transport of these special stone types far from source by glaciers and rivers. One example is the distribution of artefacts of black Pennine Chert from Fremington Edge. This example overlooks the fact that black chert nodules are available in all outwash gravels and river gravels in the Vale of Mowbray. Water rolled cobbles have no flaws, whereas chert at outcrop is always frost shattered and flawed. Thus being of no use for knapping.
Last Update: 2016-04-25



Record Number 930 >>> Image 1: The quern fragment



Record Number 930 >>> Image 2: View of one face and curved edge



Record Number 930 >>> Image 3: Detail of quernfragment showing biconical central perforation drilled from either face



Record Number 930 >>> Image 4: Glacial erratic boulder of the distinctive Shap Granite from River Tees gravels.

Record Name: Horse Pasture Wood. A rare fragment of uncleared relict Dale Side woodland.

SWAAG ID Number: 931

Recorded Date: 2016-05-01 17:28:43

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Private

Record Date: 2005-01-01

Location: Low Whita

Civil Parish: Grinton

British National Grid: SE 00700 97800

Geology: SE 400700 497800 centre

Description: Horse Pasture Wood is a fragment of the mixed deciduous woodland which would certainly have once been widespread on the calcareous drift covered lower slopes of Swaledale, now fully deforested. Protected behind a shelter belt of scots pine, a community of mixed deciduous woodland has survived with alder, birch and ash predominant but with hazel, crab, bird cherry, hawthorn also. Several very large coppiced alders and birches are present. The field layer includes areas of bluebells, ramsons, and other indicators of ancient woodland.

Dimensions: See photos

SWAAG Site: Low Whita

Last Update: 2017-06-06

Record Name: Lithic - stray find

SWAAG ID Number: 932

Recorded Date: 2016-06-03 10:52:13

Recorded by: Ric Carter

Category: Lithic Find / Scatter

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-05-29

Location: Low Row Pasture

Civil Parish: Melbecks

British National Grid: #SD 96373 98274

Altitude: 387m

Description: A nice example of a Mesolithic white patinated denticulate (saw) blade serrated along both long edges. Collected from the surface ground just off the public footpath/track along the limestone scar overlooking the river valley. Description courtesy of Tim Laurie FSA.

Dimensions: 36 mm x 15 mm x 4 mm (max)

Additional Notes: Additional notes to follow.

SWAAG Site: Low Row Pastures

Last Update: 2016-07-24



Record Number 932 >>> Image 1: Flint Saw

Record Name: Flint Saw
SWAAG ID Number: 933
Recorded Date: 2016-07-04 11:04:01
Recorded by: Ric Carter
Category: Lithic Find / Scatter
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2016-07-03
Location: Low Row Pastures
Civil Parish: Melbecks
British National Grid: #SD 96576 98107
Altitude: 377m

Description: Another Mesolithic white-patinated flint denticulate (saw) blade serrated along both long edges. A stray find, collected from a surface erosion scrape on the limestone scar above the river valley. May be compared with record 932. This example of similar size but with finer (less use-worn?) serrations.

Dimensions: 34 mm x 16 mm
SWAAG Site: Low Row Pastures
Last Update: 2016-08-06



Record Number 933 >>> Image 1: Flint Saw



Record Number 933 >>> Image 2: Flint Saw

Record Name: Lead mining in Apedale - an introduction

SWAAG ID Number: 934

Recorded Date: 2016-07-20 09:06:10

Recorded by: Alan and Judith Mills

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-16

Location: Apedale

Civil Parish: Redmire

British National Grid: SE 012 950

Geology: Yoredale series

Description: The geology of and mining in Apedale are described to a greater and lesser extent in a small number of sources principally Dunham & Wilson(1), Raistrick(2,3)and Spensley(4). This record is a brief introduction to what may be observed on a short walk in this interesting and picturesque valley.

There are the remains of two smelt mills in Apedale, their locations clearly visible on the 1st edition OS map; one at what is now called Dents Houses SE 0304 9423, the other, referred to as 'Old Smelting Mill (Lead)', at SE 0200 9400. One or more seems to have been working from the mid-18th C to the mid 19th C.

Once past Dents Houses a line of shallow shafts follow the Apedale Head vein to the North of the track. Further up the track at SE 01865 94567 are the sizeable remains left by the Apedale Mining Company which sank Apedale Shaft there in 1868. Below the track to the South is a partially buried waterwheel pit, indicating the site of a crushing mill, with the remains of four bouse teams nearby.

The most interesting sites are further up the dale near Jingle Pot Gill. Below the track to the South at SE 01237 94795 is the portal of Jingle Pot Level, aka Apedale Head Level, and above to the North at SE 01293 94862 is an impressive opencast cut through the Main Limestone, with a similar cut to the West at SE 01133 94909.

Well above the track and above Jingle Pot Gill are the remains of early medieval mining. Richard Smith has dated one of the bale smelting sites at SE 01179 95006 to the 10th / early 11th century ie pre-Conquest . Nearby shallow shafts and shallow opencast trenches might well be the source of galena smelted there.

Selected sources

(1) Geology of the Northern Pennine Orefield Vol 2 Stainmore to Craven; K.C. Dunham and A.A. Wilson; British Geological Survey; 1985

(2) The lead industry of Wensleydale & Swaledale, Vol 1 The Mines; Arthur Raistrick; Moorland Publishing; 1975

(3) The lead industry of Wensleydale & Swaledale, Vol 2 The Smelting Mills; Arthur Raistrick; Moorland Publishing; 1975

(4) Mines & Miners of Wensleydale; I.M. Spensley; 2014

(5) Radiocarbon dating of early lead smelting sites; Richard Smith; British Mining no. 80; 2006

Last Update: 2016-08-03



Record Number 934 >>> Image 1: Wheel pit at Apedale Shaft



Record Number 934 >>> Image 2: Bouse teams at Apedale Shaft



Record Number 934 >>> Image 3: Portal of Jingle Pot Level



Record Number 934 >>> Image 4: Early medieval bale



Record Number 934 >>> Image 5: Slag at the early medieval bale site



Record Number 934 >>> Image 6: Potential early medieval workings



Record Number 934 >>> Image 7: Opencast cut through the Main Limestone

Record Name: Scargill High Moor. Ellerbeck Lead Mine hush and limestone ravine.

SWAAG ID Number: 935

Recorded Date: 2016-07-28 16:29:56

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Geological Record

Record Type: Geological HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-27

Location: Scargill High Moor, Ellerbeck Hush

Civil Parish: Scargill

British National Grid: NY 990 103

Altitude: 400m

Geology: Main Limestone strata exposed at small ravine cut by Eller Beck with the Ellerbeck Lead Mine level and open cast Lead Mine hush.

Description: This record shows the interesting limestone scenery and open cast lead mine hush above the small ravine cut through the Main Limestone by the upper reaches of Eller Beck on Scargill High Moor.

Dimensions: See photos

Last Update: 2016-08-03



Record Number 935 >>> Image 1: View towards the Ellerbeck Hush from below the Ellerbeck Lead Mine Level



Record Number 935 >>> Image 2: The Ellerbeck Hush. View South eastward.



Record Number 935 >>> Image 3: The Ellerbeck Hush. View North Westward.



Record Number 935 >>> Image 4: Main Limestone revealed beneath glacial till at Ellerbeck Spring.



Record Number 935 >>> Image 5: Ellerbeck head ravine. Limestone strata



Record Number 935 >>> Image 6: Ellerbeck head ravine. Limestone strata



Record Number 935 >>> Image 7: Ellerbeck dry valley



Record Number 935 >>> Image 8: Ellerbeck. Water sinks into a small cavern of unknown depth.



Record Number 935 >>> Image 9: Ellerbeck rises again at Ellerbeck Spring, a small cave of debouchure.

Record Name: Muker CP. Birkdale Common. Fox Holes. Pine stump possibly humanly worked. Below 1-2m deep peat.

SWAAG ID Number: 936

Recorded Date: 2016-08-01 08:23:13

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-31

Location: Birkdale Common. Foxholes.

Civil Parish: Muker

British National Grid: NY 84255 01916

Altitude: 500m

Geology: Eroding Peat Mire with remnant hags (remnants of 1.5m deep blanket peat dissected by many branching gutters or deep channels formed by low energy sikes or seasonal streams). This extensive blanket peat mire has formed over millstone grit and sandstone strata of Late Carboniferous, Namurian Age.

Description: Single fossil pine stump in situ on ground surface of an actively eroding gutter within an area of blanket peat which is 1-2m deep. The pine tree was of relatively slight diameter and was clearly stunted, close to the altitudinal limit of trees in this highly exposed location. This pine stump bears what appear to be the clear cut concave facets from a stone axe indicating that it has been humanly worked during prehistory for firewood. This interpretation is tentative and not yet confirmed.

Slight remains of thin-stemmed stunted birch are present at the base of some peat sections at Fox Holes. No other pine stumps have been located here. This indicates that this tree stump is that of an isolated stunted pine tree located within a mainly treeless area, with some birch scrub but otherwise mainly open of trees. The underlying rock strata being sandstone is deficient in plant nutrients and any soil present would not have supported woodland except for scrub and very stunted trees.

Dimensions: See photos.

Additional Notes: Fossil pine is uncommon under peat in the catchments of the Ure and Swale whereas pine is relatively frequent elsewhere in Pennine Blanket Peats. This reflects the predominantly limestone strata of the Swale and Ure Catchments below 500m. Limestone soils support mixed deciduous woodland. To the south, Nidderdale has more sandstone at both high and lower levels.

The rapid onset of Peat formation and probable Age of this Pine Stump across the Pennine Uplands. The Boreal/Atlantic Transition:

The pine stump grows directly on the mineral soil below the base of the 1.5m deep blanket peat. This small tree was almost certainly overwhelmed by the initial onset and rapid growth of peat mires across the Pennine Uplands at around 5,500BC (7,500 years ago). The onset and rapid growth of blanket peat across the Pennine Uplands at this time was initiated by climatic change- from a more Continental (warm and dry) climate to a more Oceanic (warm and wet) climate. This climatic change is termed the Boreal/Atlantic Transition.

The presence of one or more zones of very dark, highly humified peat which has lost all plant structure and so very different from the rapidly growing fibrous peat marks periods of dryness with no peat growth and with drying out of the peat surface.

References: Sir Harry Godwin. 'History of the British Flora.' Second Edition 1975. Cambridge.

Reference: Tallis, J.H. 1983. 'Forest and Moorland in the Southern Pennine Uplands in the mid Flandrian Period' *Journal of Ecology*, Vol 71.

Last Update: 2016-08-04



Record Number 936 >>> Image 1: Muker CP. Birkdale Common. Fox Holes. Isolated stump of a stunted Scots Pine Tree at base of 1.5m deep blanket peat.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 2: Detail of this pine stump showing possible axe cut facets. Photographed when first recognised in April 2002.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 3: This pine stump is located at the base of the peat within a Gutter or active erosion channel.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 4: This pine stump is located at the base of the peat within a Gutter or active erosion channel.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 5: A recent visit by SWWAG members to the Foxholes Scots Pine Tree stump.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 6: The direct GPS approach to the Foxholes Pine Tree from Birkdale Tarn directed by Mike Walton was the across these peat hags.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 7: Foxholes peat hags.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 8: Foxholes peat Hags.

Record Name: Gilmonby Moor. West Plantation. The best example of a mature conifer plantation in the N.E. Pennines.

SWAAG ID Number: 938

Recorded Date: 2016-08-06 10:31:01

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-27

Location: Gilmonby Moor. West Plantation.

Civil Parish: Gilmonby

British National Grid: NY 986 123

Altitude: 345m

Description: West Plantation is a mature plantation of mature larch, scots pine, pedunculated oak, downy birch and a single beech. West Plantation is located on the lower slopes of Gilmonby Moor astride the unfenced road from Bowes/Gilmonby Bridge to Sleightholme and thence to the Tan Hill road as an unsurfaced track. As all good mature plantations should be, the trees are widely spaced and able to reach their natural full proportions. West Plantations is unfenced and is readily seen and can be admired from the unfenced road.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: The mature larch trees attain their full proportions and have the appearance of large Bedouin tents as their long lower branches rest on the ground and are capable of self layering. These fine trees are a refuge for many species of birds which are, today, all too uncommon. At my brief recent visit, I recognised song thrush, common wren, siskin and several unidentified small birds in the the upper foliage of the trees. Beside several tit species, gold crested wrens will surely be present.

Last Update: 2016-08-06



Record Number 938 >>> Image 1: Specimen larch trees are a feature of West Plantation.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 2: View westward across Stainmore to Mickle Fell from West Plantation.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 3: Specimen larch trees



Record Number 938 >>> Image 4: Scots pine.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 5: The plantation as seen from the unfenced road to Sleightholme.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 6: The plantation as seen from the unfenced road to Sleightholme.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 7: West Plantation. Foliage of larch in May.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 8: West Plantation. Downy birch with witches broom



Record Number 938 >>> Image 9: West Plantation. Downy birch, detail.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 10: Detail at base of larch and track to the open moor.

Record Name: A walk to the Roman Shrines at Ellerbeck across Gilmonby and Scargill Moors

SWAAG ID Number: 939

Recorded Date: 2016-08-08 16:17:25

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Photographic Record

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-03

Location: Scargill Moor. A walk to the Roman Shrines at Ellerbeck.

Civil Parish: Scargill

British National Grid: NY 995 106

Altitude: 365m

Geology: Glacial drift over Namurian strata of the Main Chert series.

Description: This record is a general photographic record of a walk to Ellerbeck and the location of the Roman Shrines (recently destroyed by floods. This walk is not an easy approach to Ellerbeck. The walk commences at the cattle grid (roadside parking available) at West Plantation on the Gilmonby to Sleightholme Road. Follow the bridleway over High Green Fell, then the slight path beside the Moor Edge Wall to Pinlow Hill. After passing through the wall, walk along Eller Beck Rigg to see Ellerbeck Lead Mine and Hush then down to Eller Beck Spring and the location of the Roman shrines on the western bank of the tributary stream at NY995106. One of the two shrines at Ellerbeck under excavation in 1946 is shown on Figure 10 below. Reference: 'Teesdale in Old Photographs, Page 159, collected by The Late Dennis Coggins'. Alan Sutton Publishing. The scholars present (Left to right) include Mr T.Wake, Curator The Bowes Museum, Professor Ian Richmond, Mr F.G. Simpson and Mr R.P. Wright. The return can include a walk downstream from the shrines before climbing to Pinlow Hill where you can search and find the cup marked rock seen on the photo images below. Follow the outward path along the wall back to High Green Fell, but return by the track through West Plantation after viewing the interesting outcrops of the Main Chert strata at the accurately named Chert Gill.

Dimensions: See photos.

Additional Notes: Image no was included by the Late Dennis Coggins'in his 'Teesdale in Old Photographs'. This photograph shows the excavation of one of the two roman shrines dedicated to the god Sylvanus taken during the excavations of the Roman Shrines by Professor Sir Ian Richmond during 1946. The two large altars discovered during these excavations can be seen in the Bowes Museum. A third small altar was discovered subsequently by a visitor to Teesdale in the bed of Eller Beck having been washed out during one of the two great floods which destroyed the remains of the shrines. The visitor complained to Dennis Coggins on the dire state of the shrines and the shame that the small altar been thrown by vandals into the beck.

Dennis knew that the two altars then known were safe in the Museum and this must be a third unrecorded altar. Dennis walked to the shrines himself and removed the additional unrecorded altar from the bed of the Beck on the bank out of reach of floods.

A few days later and immediately after the second vast flood which totally destroyed the shrines I accompanied Dennis to the site of the shrines and assisted him in carrying the small altar to his land rover.

Last Update: 2016-08-11



Record Number 939 >>> Image 1: Ellerbeck. The two roman shrines were located some 70m upstream on the RH bank of the tributary stream to Ellerbeck seen in the mid distance



Record Number 939 >>> Image 2:



Record Number 939 >>> Image 3: The small tributary stream on which the shrines were located.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 4: Scots Pine at the strangely named Hong Kong Plantation



Record Number 939 >>> Image 5: View northward across Stainmore from Hong Kong Plantation



Record Number 939 >>> Image 6: Heather in flower at the moor wall, the first this season.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 7: Cup marked rock at Pinlow Hill and view southward to Spanham North Hill.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 8: Cup marked rock at Pinlow Hill and view southward to Spanham North Hill.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 9: Detail of the multi cup marked rock.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 10: One of the two shrines at Ellerbeck under excavation in 1946 (Photo from 'Teesdale in Old Photographs' collected by The Late Dennis Coggins. Alan Sutton Publishing. The scholars present include Mr T.Wake, Curator The Bowes Museum, Professor Ian Richmond, Mr F.G.

Simpson and Mr R.P. Wright.



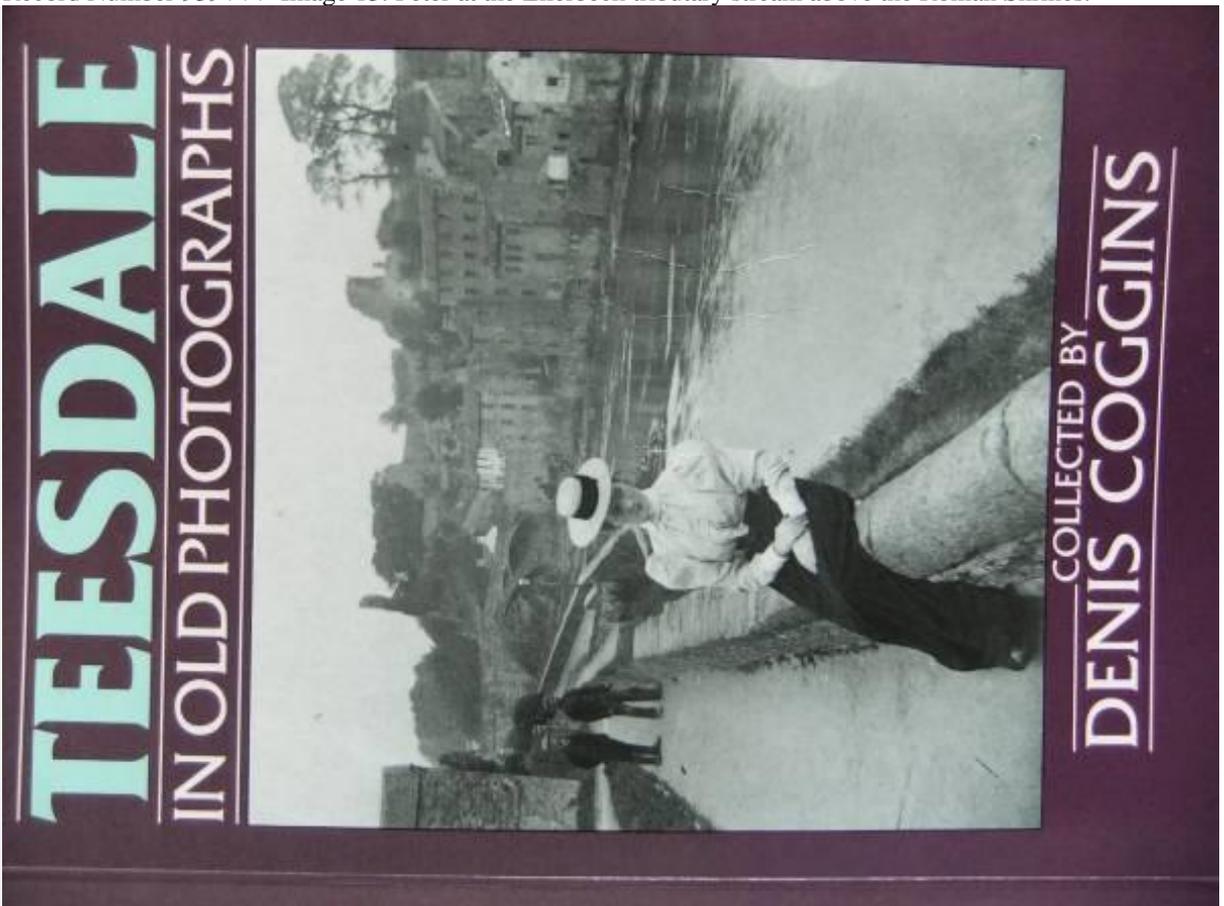
Record Number 939 >>> Image 11: The approach to Pinlow Hill and Ellerbeck follows this wall which passes Hong King Plantation.



Record Number 939 >>> Image 12: SWAAG Members during an earlier walk to the site of one of the two Roman Shrines at Ellerbeck dedicated to The God Vinotonus Sylvanus



Record Number 939 >>> Image 13: Peter at the Ellerbeck tributary stream above the Roman Shrines.



TEESDALE
IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

COLLECTED BY
DENIS COGGINS

Record Number 939 >>> Image 14: 'Teesdale in Old Photographs.' by The Late Dennis Coggins. Highly recommended!

Record Name: Views northward to Mallerstang Edge from the upper slopes of Shunner Fell

SWAAG ID Number: 940

Recorded Date: 2016-08-10 13:45:31

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Geographical Record

Record Type: Northern Britain

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-09

Location: Shunner Fell

Civil Parish: Muker

British National Grid:

Altitude: 700m

Description: The upper slopes and summit ridge of Shunner Fell provide some of the best views of distant Pennine landscapes. This is especially so during periods of approaching showers with contrasts of fells illuminated by bright sunshine or in distant outline under black rain cloud.

Additional Notes: Photographed during a walk over Shunner Fell to photograph and record the high Fell flora on Tuesday 09 August 2016.

Last Update: 2016-08-10



Record Number 940 >>> Image 1: View northward from the upper slopes of Shunner across Great Sleddale head to High Seat and Mallerstang Edge. Nine Standards in the distance.



Record Number 940 >>> Image 2: Detail of a distant landscape



Record Number 940 >>> Image 3: View north-westward from the upper slopes of Shunner across towards High Seat and Mallerstang Edge. Wild Boar Fell in the distance.



Record Number 940 >>> Image 4: Detail of a distant landscape

Record Name: A walk to Shunner Fell from the Buttertubs Summit to photograph the high Fell Flora.

SWAAG ID Number: 941

Recorded Date: 2016-08-11 13:29:27

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Photographic Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2016-08-09

Location: Shunner Fell

Civil Parish: High Abbotside

British National Grid: SD 848 973

Altitude: 716m

Geology: Namurian (Arnsbergian) Sandstones and the Shunner Fell Marine Shales (SFMB)

Description: See the photograph captions

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: For more information on the current condition of the high fell flora on Shunner, see:

Reference: <http://www.natureinthedaes.org.uk/species/plants/marsh-saxifrage/ydnpa-condition-assessment-monitoring-yellow-marsh-saxifrage-2009.pdf>

Last Update: 2016-08-11



Record Number 941 >>> Image 1: The High Abbotside Moorland Regeneration Project information Notice, fallen.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 2: High Moorland Landscapes are very colourful.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 3: View upslope of the boundary fence, note sharp contrast in the moorland vegetation: south side no sheep grazing since 1999, North side still sheep grazed.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 4: The boundary fence, view downslope LHS with sheep grazing. RHS No sheep since 1999 .



Record Number 941 >>> Image 5: Self seeded conifer. An unexpected pioneer of natural woodland regeneration perhaps.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 6: Degraded remnants of a moorland landscape once under 2-3m deep blanket peat.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 7: This peat remnant mound was once eroding fast. Now re-vegetated and secure.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 8: Distant remnants of a moorland landscape once under 2-3m deep blanket peat.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 9: Deer Grass (*Trichophorum*) on stony moor.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 10: Detail of this handsome plant.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 11: Bog Asphodel. *Nathecium ossifragum*, poisonous to sheep.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 12: Wood horsetail on slope just below summit. Relict of past woodland at this elevation perhaps.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 13: View from the Shunner Fell summit cairn



Record Number 941 >>> Image 14: Distant view of Brikdale Tarn from the summit.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 15:



Record Number 941 >>> Image 16: Botanising



Record Number 941 >>> Image 17: Distant view of Mallerstang Edge.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 18: Distant view of High Seat on Mallerstang Edge.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 19: Distant view of High Seat on Mallerstang Edge.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 20: *Saxifraga hirculus* in flower. RD Book 25.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 21: *Saxifraga hirculus* in flower. RD Book 25.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 22: View from the summit.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 23: Marsh cinquefoil. *Potentilla palustris* is dominant over some areas here.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 24: Marsh cinquefoil. *Potentilla palustris*



Record Number 941 >>> Image 25: Northern Bilberry. *Vaccinium uliginosum*, a rare plant of the highest moorland peat hags.



Record Number 941 >>> Image 26: Northern Bilberry. *Vaccinium uliginosum*, a rare plant of the highest moorland peat hags.

Record Name: Rejuvenated Chert Core
SWAAG ID Number: 942
Recorded Date: 2016-08-13 11:10:56
Recorded by: Ric Carter
Category: Lithic Find / Scatter
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2016-08-08
Location: Grovebeck Gill, Harkerside Moor
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid: #SE 038 973

Description: Of fine black chert, this rejuvenated core/flake was surface-collected from an area of eroded ground above Grovebeck Gill. Defined in the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology as "A roughly round, slightly wedge-shaped flake ... with the remains of flake beds around the outside edge. Such flakes are the product of extending the life of a core that has become uneven or difficult to work but which still has the potential to yield further blades."

Dimensions: As shown in images

SWAAG Site: Harkerside Moor

Last Update: 2016-08-13



Record Number 942 >>> Image 1: Transverse view.



Record Number 942 >>> Image 2: Dorsal surface, showing where removals have been made.



Record Number 942 >>> Image 3: Ventral (Bulbar) surface, showing bulb of percussion at top right and ripples extending from the shock of the hammer blow across the otherwise smooth surface.

Record Name: Microlith

SWAAG ID Number: 943

Recorded Date: 2016-08-13 12:14:09

Recorded by: Ric Carter

Category: Lithic Find / Scatter

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-12

Location: East Witton Moor

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: #SE 13068 84564

Altitude: 316m

Description: A broken mesolithic microlith arrow barb, showing sharpening retouch to leading edge and stepped (impact) fracture. Surface collected from verge of access track.

Dimensions: 15 mm x 5 mm

Last Update: 2016-08-13



Record Number 943 >>> Image 1:

Record Name: More on lead mining in Apedale

SWAAG ID Number: 944

Recorded Date: 2016-08-14 06:04:55

Recorded by: Alan and Judith Mills

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-14

Location: Apedale

Civil Parish: Redmire

British National Grid: SE 01 94

Description: An introduction to lead mining in Apedale is given in SWAAG database record number 934, which also contains references for further reading.

This record is a supplement to 934, identifying further interesting features associated with lead mining in Apedale.

Last Update: 2016-08-14



Record Number 944 >>> Image 1: Juniper Level portal; SE 01085 94909. The level seems to have been driven to explore the vein under the hush which can be seen in the background.



Record Number 944 >>> Image 2: A bale site at SE 00991 94957, possibly for smelting the ore from the nearby hush workings.



Record Number 944 >>> Image 3: A small collection of slag at the above bale site.



Record Number 944 >>> Image 4: A good example of a small hush dam at SE 00964 94948



Record Number 944 >>> Image 5: The outlet from the hush dam, leading down to the hush below.



Record Number 944 >>> Image 6: A smithy at SE 00905 94944 with a Smith (Richard) in the foreground !



Record Number 944 >>> Image 7: Inside the smithy. The hearth was probably in the far right corner where there are the remains of a chimney, with the bellows to the left, feeding air through a hole in the

dividing wall. There is a raised area to the right (out of sight) which was possibly the base of a workbench.



Record Number 944 >>> Image 8: A piece of 'bouse' i.e. material extracted from the vein, showing a small string of galena (ore). The workings in this area near the smithy would appear to have been very productive judging by the amount of galena left behind; presumably this piece of bouse and several others nearby were not considered worth the effort of dressing.

Record Name: Lithic find - Leaf-shaped arrowhead

SWAAG ID Number: 945

Recorded Date: 2016-08-17 17:36:22

Recorded by: Ric Carter

Category: Lithic Find / Scatter

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-15

Location: Holgate How

Civil Parish: New Forest

British National Grid: #NZ 07021 04929

Altitude: 417 m.

Description: An early neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (broken) of white/grey flint, pressure-flaked around its edges (except where broken) and with invasive retouch to the dorsal surface; the break approx two thirds along its original length estimated at 50 mm where it has been step-fractured on impact; a stray find, surface-collected.

Dimensions: 32 mm x 23 mm x 2.5 mm

Last Update: 2016-08-17



Record Number 945 >>> Image 1: Arrowhead - dorsal surface



Record Number 945 >>> Image 2: Arrowhead - ventral surface



Record Number 945 >>> Image 3: Arrowhead - as found



Record Number 945 >>> Image 4: Arrowhead - find spot - panorama

Record Name: Bishopdale CP. Stake Moss. Small lead mine complex some 3km South West of Thoraby Lead Mine.

SWAAG ID Number: 947

Recorded Date: 2016-08-23 16:56:28

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-21

Location: Bishopdale. Stake Moss

Civil Parish: Bishopdale

British National Grid: SD 936 827

Altitude: 554m

Geology: Lead mine shaft mounds on surface of the Main Limesone exposed below heavily eroded blanket peat 2- 3m deep.

Description: Bishopdale CP. Stake Moss. Located some 3km South West of the most westerly recorded lead mine on the south side of Wensleydale which is Thoraby Lead Mine. Small lead mine complex comprising at least eight shaft mounds located within Stake Moss Hags -an extensive area of heavily eroded blanket peat to the east of the Stake Road. Several of these lead mine shaft mounds are themselves partly shrouded below growing peat.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: Not recorded by the OS on the 1:25000 map. Not mentioned in K.C. Dunham and Wilson, 1985. BGS Memoir Geology of the North Pennine Orefield. Chapter 11, p.163 and Figure 30.

Question! Has this small lead mine within L been described previously?

Last Update: 2016-08-24



Record Number 947 >>> Image 1: Stake Moss. Lead mine shafts within eroding peat hags.



Record Number 947 >>> Image 2: Several of the shaft mounds are masked under growing peat.



Record Number 947 >>> Image 3:



Record Number 947 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 947 >>> Image 5: View northward from the shaft mounds towards Shunner (I think) or was it southward towards Buckden Pike?.



Record Number 947 >>> Image 6: Vernal or Spring Sandwort or Leadwort, *Minuartia verna*, in flower on one of the shaft mounds.

Record Name: Two small isolated round cairns on Stake Fell

SWAAG ID Number: 948

Recorded Date: 2016-08-28 17:04:34

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burial Mounds and Cairns

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-08-26

Location: Stake Fell

Civil Parish: Bainbridge

British National Grid: SD 940 849

Altitude: 540m

Geology: The Main Limestone.

Description: This record will place on record two small isolated round cairns located at different viewpoints on Stake Fell. The larger of the two small round cairns is 8m diameter approximately and is located at 540m AOD, close to a public right of way at a high point on Stake Allotments. This round cairn enjoys one of the best all round views in the Pennines with the Howgill Fells and Mallerstang Edge above above the Vale of Eden visible to the west. Distant Eston Nab can be seen some 70miles to the east beyond Penhill. This round cairn is turf covered and is undisturbed.

The smaller of the two round cairns is 6m diameter and located slightly lower down at an elevation of 500m on the North Western Edge of Stake Fell. The view from this cairn is directed across Semer Water to the summit Counterset Crag where a similar prehistoric cairn is located. This round cairn is located very close to a 19C allotment wall and is undisturbed except for a small hole has been quarried in the top for stone walling.

Dimensions: 8m and 6m diameter approximately

Additional Notes: Both cairns are circular, steep sided and composed of fragments of limestone. They surely represent the burial sites of transhumant bronze age pastoralists visiting this area of calcareous grassland during the summer months. RIP.

Last Update: 2016-08-28



Record Number 948 >>> Image 1: Stake Allotments. The larger of the two cairns on Stake Fell and view through Upper Wensleydale to Mallerstang Edge and north west



Record Number 948 >>> Image 2: The same cairn with view east beyond Penhill to Eston Nab.



Record Number 948 >>> Image 3: View from the cairn and view northward across Addlebrough.



Record Number 948 >>> Image 4: Small lead mine shaft mound in foreground. The round cairn in distance,



Record Number 948 >>> Image 5: The smaller of the two round cairns on NW Edge of Stake Fell. View over Addlebrough Hill to the north.



Record Number 948 >>> Image 6: Same cairn with view across to Counterset Crag

Record Name: The Arkle Apple tree.

SWAAG ID Number: 949

Recorded Date: 2016-09-16 16:39:21

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree/Shrub Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2016-09-15

Location: Arkle Beck Pastures. Small west bank tributary stream.

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: NZ 0260 0105

Altitude: 233m

Geology: Small stream cut ravine.

Description: This fine wild apple tree (*Malus domestica*) now laden with small ripe red fruit (not the small green fruit of the true crab which are <20mm diameter) has the appearance of a small orchard rather than a single fallen apple tree. Who it was that threw their apple core with the pip that germinated at the roots of an even older alder on the side of this small beck, we shall never know. I suspect that this apple which has the taste of crab and clearly has crab apple genes, may be the descendent of the tree that provided apple tart and cider for the early Swale shepherd family whose sheiling homestead (Database record to follow) can be seen in the nearby pastures of East Rawcroft.

Dimensions: 2.60m girth

Additional Notes: The three conjoined trunks (stems) of this apple tree rise from the very edge of this small tributary stream of the Arkle. The three trunks of this apple grow immediately below the roots of an even older coppiced alder tree (to be recorded separately). The three stems conjoin to form a pollard which has fallen across the stream. The apple tree appears first to have been coppiced to throw up three stems, then pollarded at a height off around 2m from the original ground. Finally, after developing a full canopy of mature fruiting branches, the tree fell across the stream but remained rooted. Today, all the fruiting branches are more or less prostrate and supported from the ground surface of the nearby meadow forming the structure of this very large tree.

In the future, I have no doubt that several of the branches of this tree will themselves root where in contact with the ground and will be able to throw up new trees if and when the existing rooted tree is washed out by flooding.

Thus this tree is capable of indefinite existence.

Last Update: 2016-09-17



Record Number 949 >>> Image 1: Approach to the Apple which grows on the beck side close to the public footpath.



Record Number 949 >>> Image 2: Detail of the fallen apple tree and alder at the stream side.



Record Number 949 >>> Image 3: Ancient alders and one very old self sown apple tree line this small

tributary to the Arkle.



Record Number 949 >>> Image 4: The Arkle Apple



Record Number 949 >>> Image 5: The fallen apple, detail.



Record Number 949 >>> Image 6: Canopy of the Apple



Record Number 949 >>> Image 7: Rowan and alder at stream side

Record Name: Field boundary system, unenclosed settlements and burial monuments on Seal Houses Low Moor, then and now.

SWAAG ID Number: 950

Recorded Date: 2016-09-24 14:17:40

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Settlement

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-18

Location: Seal Houses Low Moor from NY 399019 504577 to NY 399518 504397 and at NY 399362 504775

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NY 3990 5046

Altitude: 375m-400m

Geology: Gritstone over shale.

Description: The photographs below were taken some 20-30 years ago and depict, firstly: a wide ranging field system comprising two long stone dump contour field banks with occasional orthostats. The two substantial field banks cross areas of sandstone scree which surely were originally covered by a deep soil, perhaps a loess soil which has since been removed by erosion.

Secondly, the photographs show a double ring cairn and adjacent round cairn and a settlement of two unenclosed round houses located close to the lower of the field boundaries. At the time when these photographs were taken the moor, once heather covered. (The Late Ramsey Hutchinson, pers. com.) had been overgrazed and the heather had been replaced by short turf.

In consequence archaeological features were plainly and prominently visible. This is no longer the case, all features are now invisible or nearly so. They are now lost under thick, full height coarse grasses, bracken and rushes.

All the photo images below were taken many years ago when the Moor was probably over grazed.

A few photographs (eg Image No 2 and the final Images, Nos 23-26 which were taken recently depict the moor as seen today.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: This record is intended to draw attention to the condition of some open Pennine moorland tracts following reduction of the numbers of sheep grazing.

Some 20-30 years ago I photographed the early, as yet undated field system, the ring cairn. the cairn and round house settlements seen in the photos below. At this time, the moors were generally over-stocked and this Moor, once heather covered had reverted to rough grassland. In consequence, the archaeological landscapes of Seal Houses Low Moor were plain to see during a pleasant walk across short upland grassland turf.

Following reduction of sheep numbers over the Pennines generally, the short pleasant turf of Seal Houses Low Moor is today un-grazed. Full height rank grassland of the most vigorous grasses- Deschampsia and Molinia with large areas of Soft Rush which will smother less vigorous grasses. These coarse grasses and rushes now entirely cover the archaeological features which are rendered completely invisible.

Furthermore, it is now almost impossible to walk through the long grass, rush and bracken which covers much of the moor.

SWAAG Site: Eskeleth Low Moor

Last Update: 2016-09-24



Record Number 950 >>> Image 1: Lower of the two coaxial field boundaries on Eskelleth Low Moor follows the upper edge of the scree above the road



Record Number 950 >>> Image 2: Today, just one short length of this same Field Boundary is visible before becoming lost beneath long grass and bracken.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 3: As seen 20 years ago, the lower of the two coaxial field boundaries on Eskelleth Low Moor follows the upper edge of the screes above the road



Record Number 950 >>> Image 4: Lower of the two coaxial field boundaries on Eskelleth Low Moor follows the upper edge of the screes above the road



Record Number 950 >>> Image 5: Upper of the two coaxial field boundaries



Record Number 950 >>> Image 6: Field boundary crossing scree, note the clearance was from the downslope up to the boundary.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 7: Field boundary crossing scree, at NY99400473



Record Number 950 >>> Image 8:



Record Number 950 >>> Image 9: Field boundary at sheep fold.



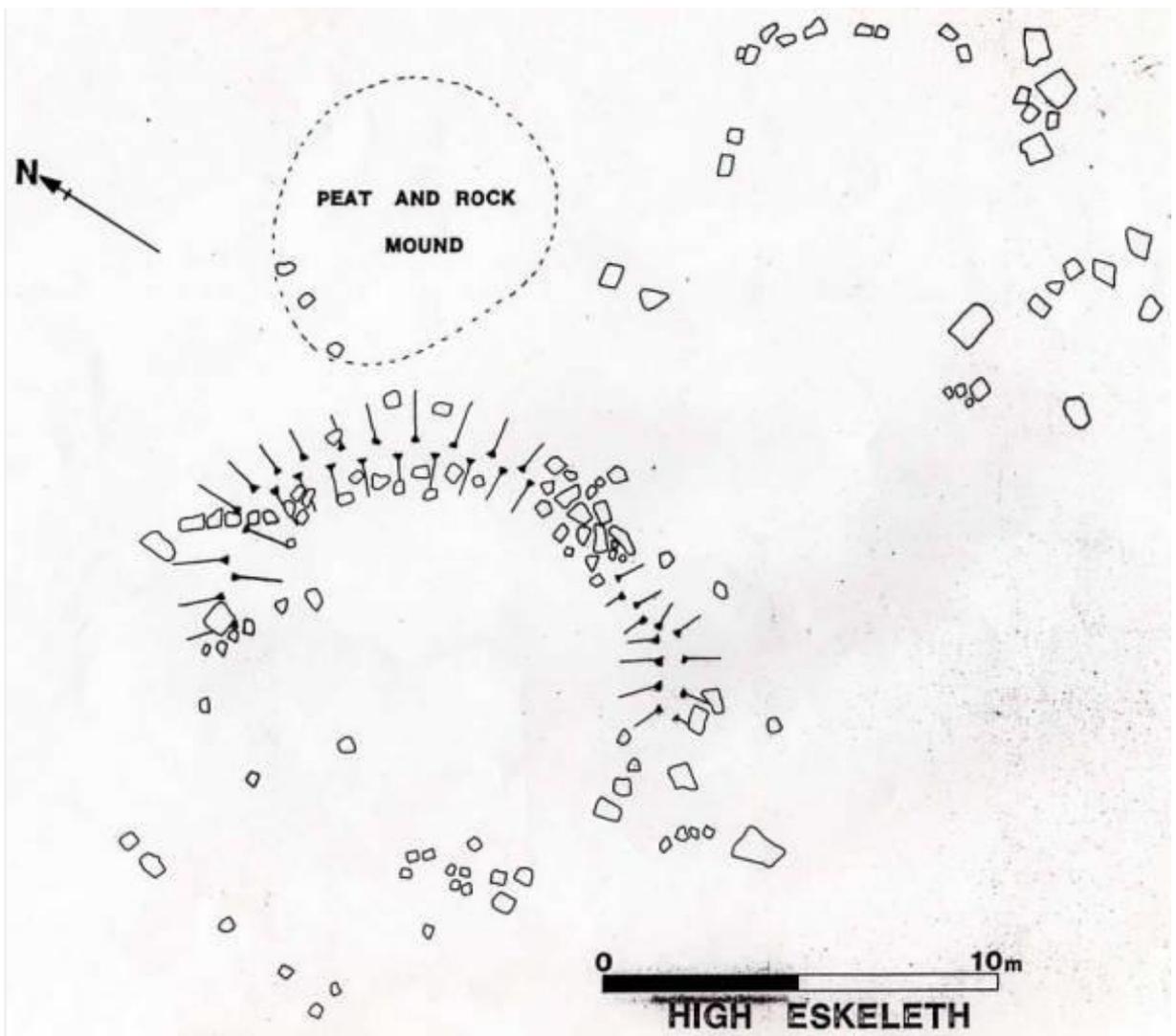
Record Number 950 >>> Image 10: Round House close to track up to Kitley Hill



Record Number 950 >>> Image 11: Round House in pasture close to the unenclosed road below High Eskelleth.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 12: Coarse, rank grasses conceal all archaeological features and make walking over the moor very difficult.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 13: Plane table survey of the round cairn with two adjacent ring banks thought at first to be ring cairns but now considered to be two round house enclosure banks. Copyright: Timothy.C.Laurie.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 14: Slide image of the cairn and ringwork taken many years ago.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 15: Andrew Fleming at the Ring Cairn and Cairn.



Record Number 950 >>> Image 16: Cairn and Ring Cairn



Record Number 950 >>> Image 17: Cairn and Ring Cairn



Record Number 950 >>> Image 18: Cairn and Ring Cairn



Record Number 950 >>> Image 19: Cairn and Ring Cairn



Record Number 950 >>> Image 20: Cairn and Ring Cairn with view down through Arkengarthdale



Record Number 950 >>> Image 21: Ring cairn or round house No 2 at this location



Record Number 950 >>> Image 22: Cairn and Ring Cairn



Record Number 950 >>> Image 23: The Lower field boundary is invisible below bracken and rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today



Record Number 950 >>> Image 24: The Lower field boundary is invisible below rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today



Record Number 950 >>> Image 25: The Lower field boundary is invisible below Bracken and rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today



Record Number 950 >>> Image 26: The Lower field boundary is invisible below Bracken and rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today



Record Number 950 >>> Image 27: The Lower field boundary is invisible below Bracken and rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today



Record Number 950 >>> Image 28: The Lower field boundary is invisible below Bracken and rank Molinia and Deschampsia grasses today

Record Name: *Clavulinopsis helvula* or Fairy yellow club and other fungi seen recently at Windegg

SWAAG ID Number: 951

Recorded Date: 2016-09-25 18:18:22

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Fungus / Mould

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-18

Location: Booze Moor. High limestone grassland in the vicinity of the White Gang Lead Vein.

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NZ 011 043

Altitude: 475m-500m

Geology: The Main Limestone

Description: *Clavulinopsis helvula* or Fairy yellow club is one of a number of colourful and interesting fungi seen during a recent walk across calcareous grassland on the Main Limestone on the upper slopes of Booze Moor close to the White Gang Lead Vein Mine. Other fungi species seen included several different *Hygrocybe* species (wax caps) and *Geoglossum cookeianum* (common earth tongue). Just two horse mushrooms were seen. Mushrooms, once common on unimproved limestone grassland are now very scarce or entirely absent.

Additional Notes: A very good guide to British Fungi is Collins Wild Guide: Brian Spooner, 1996.

'Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and Europe.'

Last Update: 2016-09-26



Record Number 951 >>> Image 1: *Clavulinopsis helvula* or Fairy yellow club



Record Number 951 >>> Image 2: Herring or Common Gull beak, wax caps and fragment of fossiliferous limestone.



Record Number 951 >>> Image 3: Horse mushrooms



Record Number 951 >>> Image 4: Wax caps



Record Number 951 >>> Image 5: Puff balls



Record Number 951 >>> Image 6: Puff Ball. Detail showing spiny surface



Record Number 951 >>> Image 7: Wax caps



Record Number 951 >>> Image 8: Wax caps



Record Number 951 >>> Image 9: Wax caps



Record Number 951 >>> Image 10: Earth tongue.

Record Name: A visit to the head of the impressive North Rake Hush Lead Mine

SWAAG ID Number: 952

Recorded Date: 2016-09-26 15:47:17

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-24

Location: Arkengarthdale, Booze Moor. North Rake Hush.

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NZ 0135 0320

Altitude: 430-450m

Geology: Open cast mined lead vein in Richmond chert strata over The Main Limestone.

Description: This record is intended to provide a photographic introduction to the present appearance of the upper section of North Rake Hush Open Cast Lead Mine. In addition to the lead mine remains, the fossil and botanical interest at this location will be indicated.

Dimensions: See photographs

Last Update: 2016-09-27



Record Number 952 >>> Image 1: The head of the North Rake Flush



Record Number 952 >>> Image 2: Isolated lead mine shafts above the head of the flush.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 3: Lead mine shafts of differing appearance provide evidence for surface lead mining over many centuries.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 4: Galena, lead sulphide, mineral from the spoil heaps. This specimen shows the cubic form of individual Galena crystals isolated within a matrix of Barytes.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 5: North Rake Hush, Upper section.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 6: North Rake Hush, Upper section. Fell End in distance.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 7: Chert strata at head of the Flush.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 8: Solitary old multi stem elder on cliff at edge of the North Rake Flush. Note the white fragments of branches torn off by the wind from this old bush in the scree below.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 9: Calcite mineral in the upcast of one of the shaft mines.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 10: View to the head of the North Rake Flush.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 11: Fragmentary masses of the colonial coral *Syringopora* sp. are present on blocks in the scree derived from chert strata at the edge of the hush.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 12: A large colony of Parsley Fern, *Cryptogama crispa*, thrives in scree. This fern is common in scree in the Lake District and is present in Upper Teesdale. Parsley fern is very rare elsewhere in the NE Pennine Dales.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 13: Parsley Fern in scree detail



Record Number 952 >>> Image 14: Parsley Fern in scree detail



Record Number 952 >>> Image 15: Detail of a large block in scree with the colonial coral *Syringopora* sp. and a fine example of one of the Hawkweeds ,*Hieraceum* agg., in flower



Record Number 952 >>> Image 16: Scaly Male Fern, *Dryopteris borrieri*, in scree with Parsley Fern.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 17: A fine example of the art of the dry stone wall. Enclosure at North Rake Hush.



Record Number 952 >>> Image 18: Detail of this wall.

Record Name: Lead bale below Little Windegg Scar

SWAAG ID Number: 953

Recorded Date: 2016-10-06 15:33:52

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-30

Location: Arkengarthdale, Little Windegg

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NZ 0090 0486

Altitude: 470m

Geology: Sandstone below The Main Limestone.

Description: Well preserved lead bale with pit feature. Splashes of creamy lead silicate present on burnt stone.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: This fine lead bale site is located immediately below the spoil heap of a lead mine level driven into the Main Limestone, see photos. The entrance to this level is very narrow and now entirely closed by rubble. This mine was probably a trial.

Last Update: 2016-10-06



Record Number 953 >>> Image 1: Little Windegg. Lead bale and Lead Mine trial level spoil heap and entrance.



Record Number 953 >>> Image 2: Little Windegg. Lead Bale with pit feature.



Record Number 953 >>> Image 3: Little Windegg. Lead Bale with pit feature.



Record Number 953 >>> Image 4: Little Windegg. Lead Bale seen from below.



Record Number 953 >>> Image 5: Little Windegg. Lead silicate on burnt stone.



Record Number 953 >>> Image 6: Little Windegg. Lead Bale with pit feature. Photographed from top of lead mine spoil heap



Record Number 953 >>> Image 7: Little Windegg. Lead Bale seen from the east.

Record Name: Lead mine and spoil heap at Little Windegg Scar.

SWAAG ID Number: 954

Recorded Date: 2016-10-06 16:05:50

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-29

Location: Arkengarthdale, Little Windegg

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NZ 0092 0490

Altitude: 480m

Geology: The Main Limestone

Description: The neat spoil heap of this small lead mine is located below Little Windegg Scar and just 20m north of the Lead Bale site recorded on the previous record.

The entrance to this level is very narrow and is now blocked with rubble. The narrow entrance is an indication that this level is of an early date and may have been a trial on the line of a vein visible in the face of the Scar.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: The lead mine probably post dates the lead bale by several centuries. The source of the lead ore smelted at the bale was probably the shallow scrins or surface pits visible on the slopes above and to the SE of Little Windegg Scar.

Last Update: 2016-10-06



Record Number 954 >>> Image 1: Lead mine spoil heap below Little Windegg Scar



Record Number 954 >>> Image 2: Lead mine spoil heap below Little Windegg Scar



Record Number 954 >>> Image 3: The very narrow entrance to the level is blocked with rubble.



Record Number 954 >>> Image 4: The very narrow entrance to the level is blocked with rubble.



Record Number 954 >>> Image 5: Little Windegg. The lead bale, lead mine spoil heap and entrance to the lead mine. Seen from below.

Record Name: Little Windegg. Two adjacent lead bales on Scarp Edge close to the White Gang Lead Vein

SWAAG ID Number: 955

Recorded Date: 2016-10-07 09:48:31

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Mining Related

Record Type: Mining

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-09-29

Location: Little Windegg, at Scarp Edge close to workings on the White Gang Lead Vein.

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NZ 0105 0445

Altitude: 505m

Geology: Chert strata above the Main Limestone

Description: Two adjacent lead bales on the edge of the escarpment some 400m SSE of the bale below Little Windegg Scar. These two further bale sites are located within an area of shallow pit 'scrins' which are very early surface lead mining remains. These two bales are located at the northern edge of the extensive area of shallow pit scrins and more recent levels on the White Gang Lead Vein.

The second of the two bales is located a few metres to the south, closer to the northern edge of the area of workings on the White Gang Lead Vein.

Dimensions: See photos

Last Update: 2016-10-07



Record Number 955 >>> Image 1: The northern of the two adjacent lead bales at Little Windegg.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 2: The two bale sites at this location are at the northern edge of the extensive area of workings of different periods on the White Gang Lead Vein



Record Number 955 >>> Image 3: Burnt stone and creamy splashes of lead silicate



Record Number 955 >>> Image 4: The bale site is revealed by erosion of the turf and peat which conceals most of this site.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 5: Burnt stone and lead silicate splashes at the bale.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 6: The more southerly of the two adjacent bales is located at the northern edge of the area of workings on the White Gang Lead Vein.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 7: The more southerly of the two bales is located at the northern edge of the area of workings on the White Gang Lead Vein.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 8: Vitrified slag and a prill of oxidised lead metal.



Record Number 955 >>> Image 9: Detail of the lead prill found at the bale site.

Record Name: The Gilling Wood Linear Earthwork
SWAAG ID Number: 956
Recorded Date: 2016-10-13 17:19:09
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Earthworks
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Footpath
Record Date: 2013-01-05
Location: Gilling with Hartforth and Sedbury CP. Gilling Wood
British National Grid: NZ 152 049

Description: The Gilling Wood linear earthwork dyke is undated but may have been planned and constructed to protect the north-western flank of Richmond and of the high road to Marske and Mid Upper Swaledale. Thus, if proved to be contemporary, enhancing the Grinton/Fremington Dyke complex. The Gilling Wood Dyke is just 500m in length and comprises a very substantial frontal west facing ditch and rear rampart. The northern end of this earthwork terminates at the steep sided ravine of Smelt Mill Beck. Thus, this earthwork, of fairly minimal length, incorporates the ravine of this stream which runs downslope towards Hartforth.

The linear earthwork together with the ravine and stream thus provide an effective continuous obstacle of at least 2.5km across the best line of approach to Richmond and Mid Upper Swaledale from the North and West. In short, an effective defensive barrier to a small band of raiding cavalry.

Last Update: 2016-10-13



Record Number 956 >>> Image 1: Entrance through the earthwork at change of direction. The Public Right of Way passes through this entrance.



Record Number 956 >>> Image 2:



Record Number 956 >>> Image 3:



Record Number 956 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 956 >>> Image 5:



Record Number 956 >>> Image 6:

Record Name: Reeth Low Moor. Historic Landscapes. 19m diameter Denuded Round Cairn on Cringley Bottom

SWAAG ID Number: 957

Recorded Date: 2016-10-21 14:42:43

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burial Mounds and Cairns

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-10-21

Location: Reeth Low Moor. Cringley Bottom.

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: NY 99846 00233

Altitude: 365m

Geology: Glacial drift over strata above the Middle Limestone.

Description: NY99846 00233 or 399846 500233. RTH 010 on Survey Maps below. Round cairn 19m diameter located on open moorland some 200m north of the stone wall of the enclosed Pastures above Barney Beck. This large round cairn has been severely reduced by quarrying and has supplied much stone for the nearby dry stone walls.

However a sufficient remnant of the stone core of this cairn survives to define the minimal extent of a cairn once at least 19m diameter.

This cairn is the largest of a substantial number of stone cairns located on the wide moorland terrace below Cringley Hill. The two maps below are extracts from the SWALB EDM survey of prehistoric monuments of Reeth Low Moor with later amendments following additional fieldwork.

Dimensions: Remnant of stone round cairn 19m diameter

Additional Notes: Image No One below shows the perimeter of this cairn as marked by a group of Friends of the Swaledale Museum during a field walk over Reeth Low Moor.

Reference: Tim Laurie, 2011. 'Archaeological landscapes of Reeth Moor', Proceedings of the Lawrence Barker Conference, 10 September 2011, Fremington North Yorkshire. In: British Mining No 92, Memoirs 2011, pp37-58.

Now available in the Publications Section of this Website.

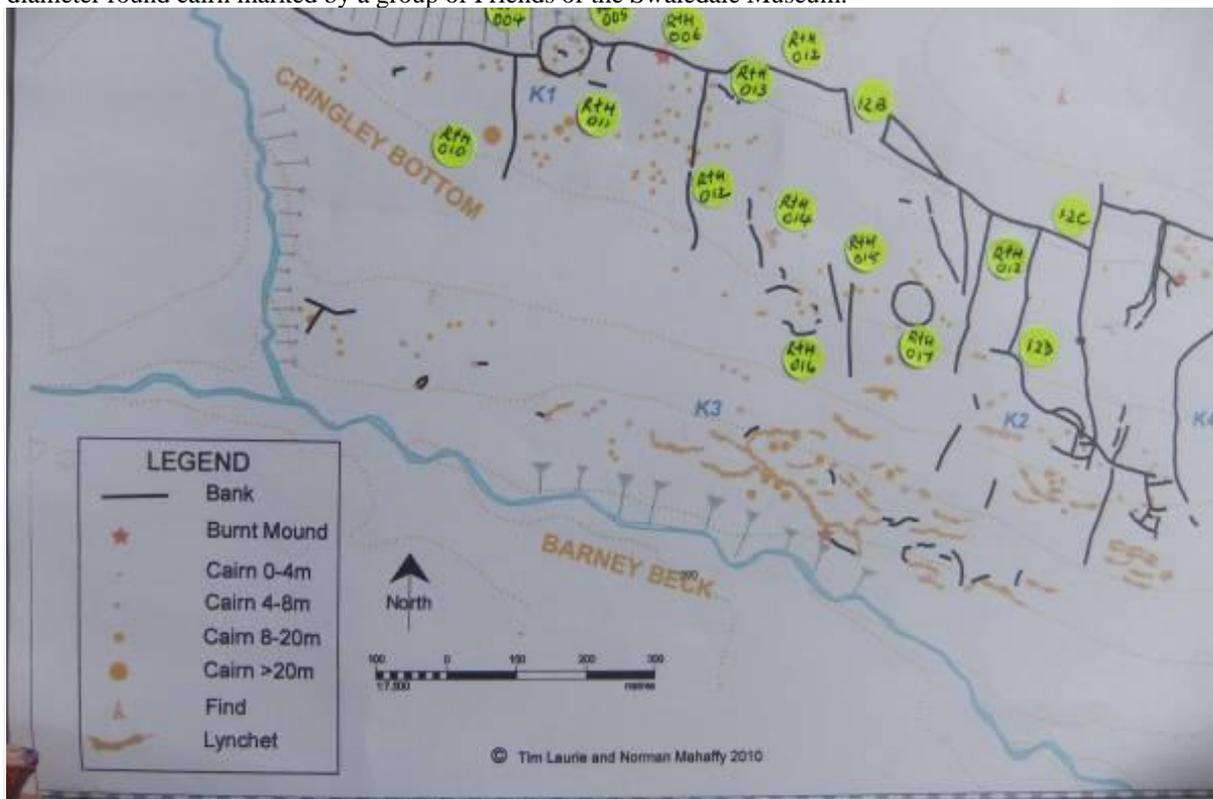
SWAAG Site: Reeth Low Moor

Last Update: 2016-10-21

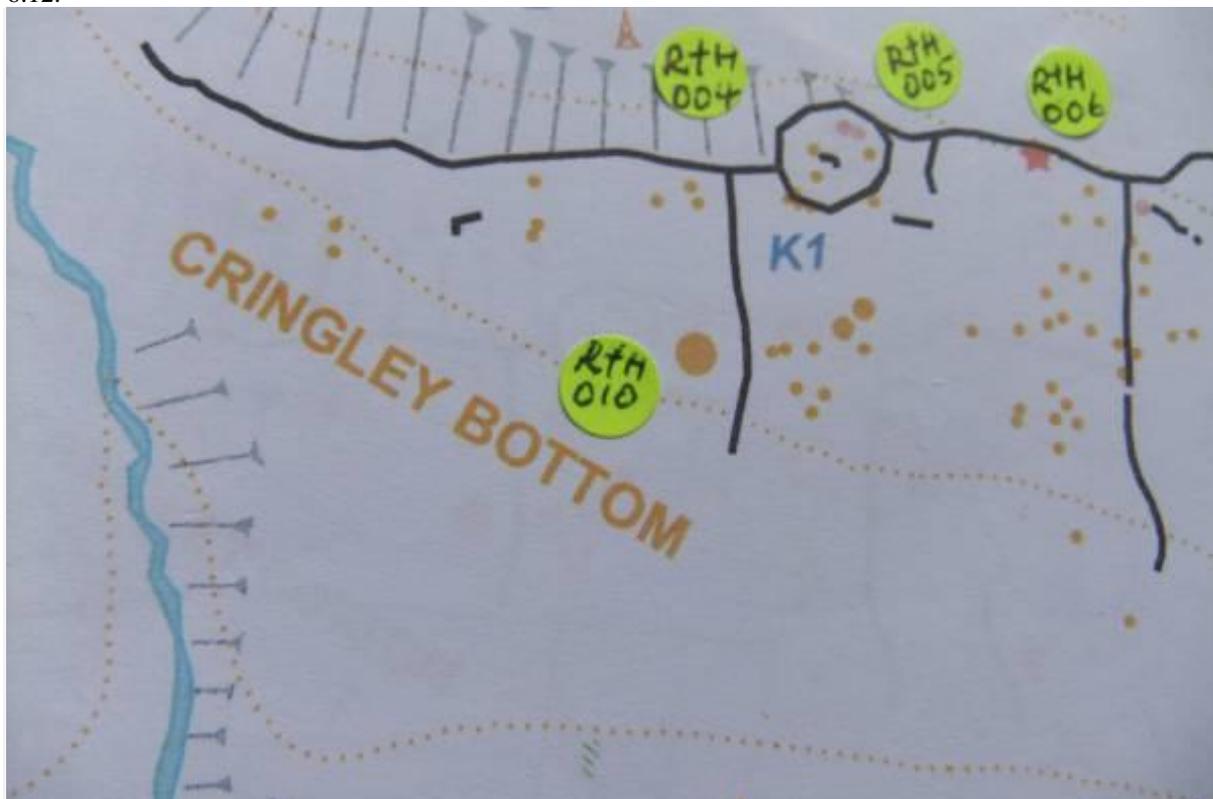


Record Number 957 >>> Image 1: Reeth Low Moor. Cringley Bottom. Perimeter of the remnant of a 19m

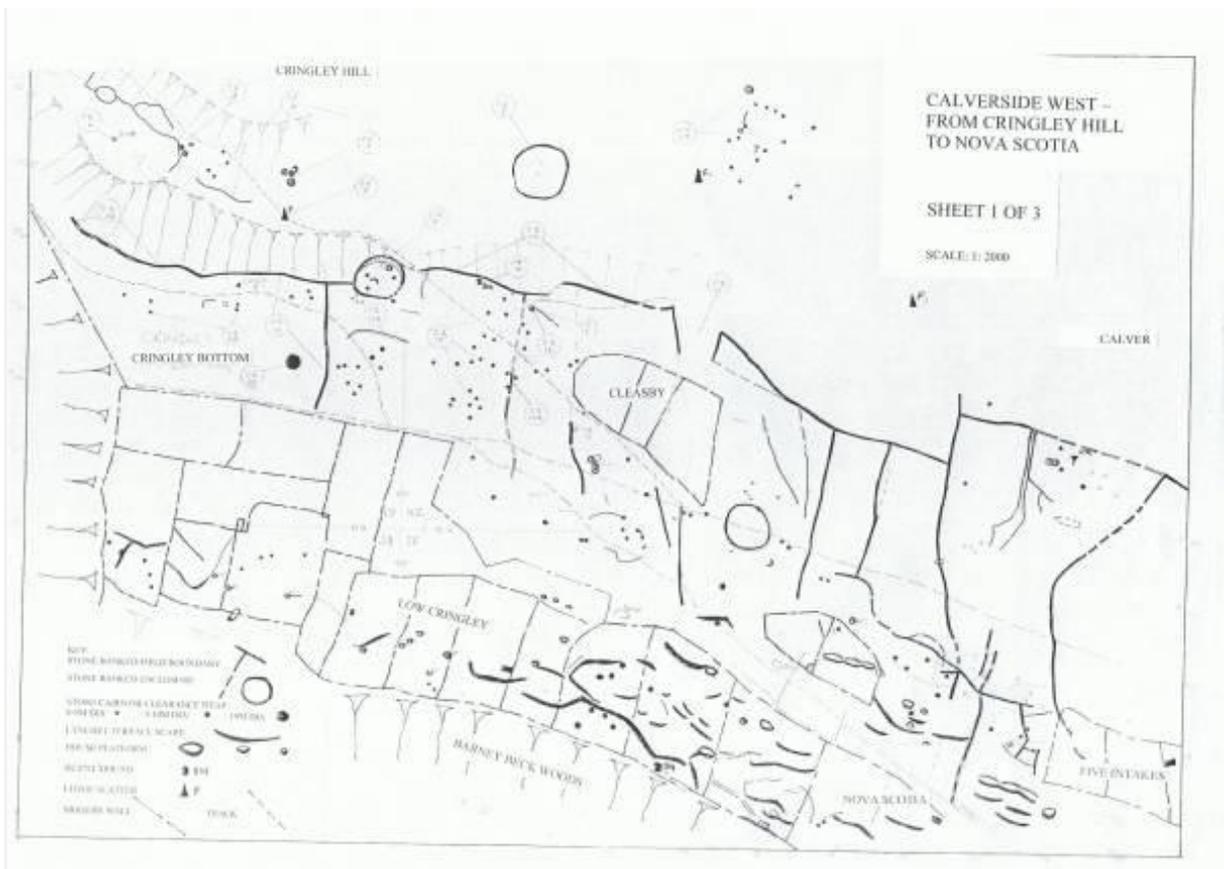
diameter round cairn marked by a group of Friends of the Swaledale Museum.



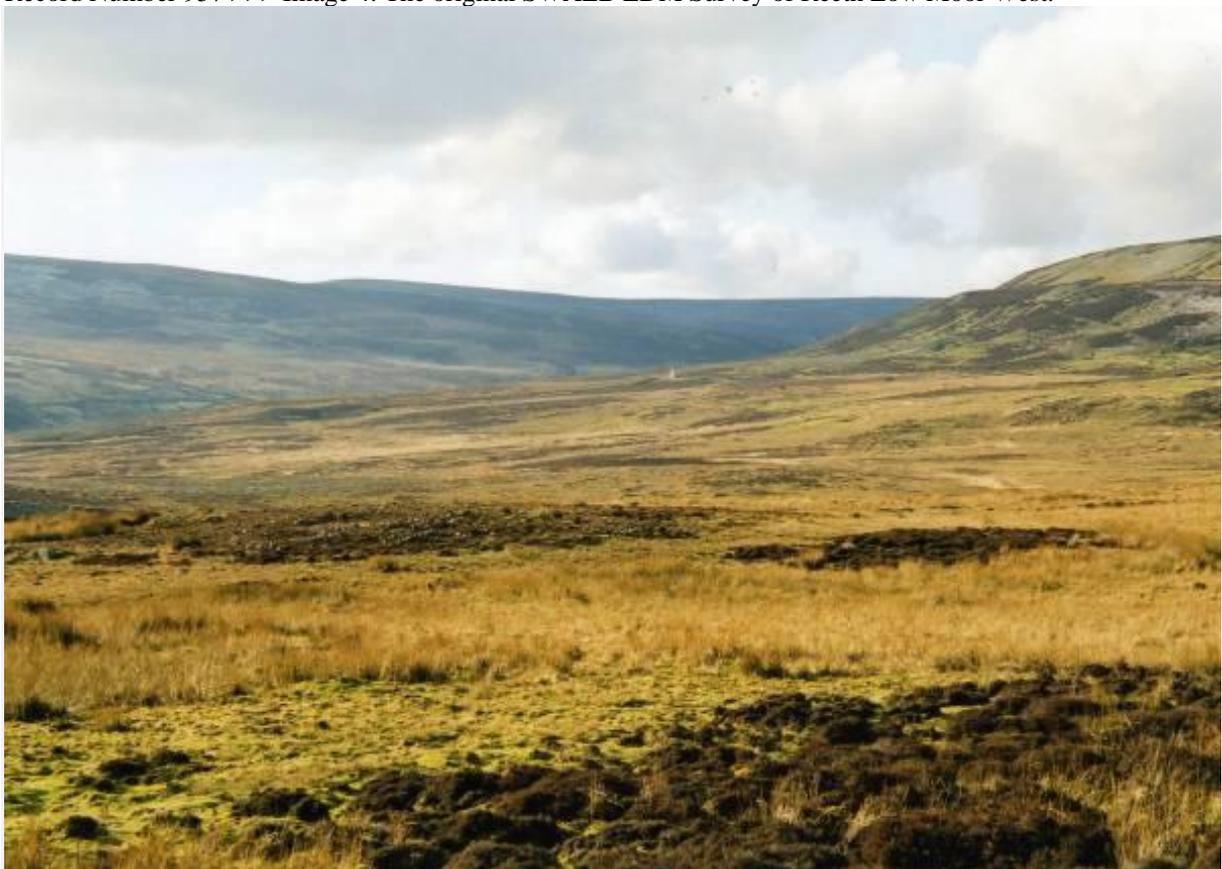
Record Number 957 >>> Image 2: Reeth Low Moor West. Westernmost section of the Three Sections of the SWALB EDM Survey of Reeth Low Moor with later amendments as Laurie et al. 2011, Figure 6.12.



Record Number 957 >>> Image 3: Prehistoric monuments, Reeth Low Moor West including early settlement evidence at Cringley Bottom. Prehistoric monuments at Cringley Bottom. Extract from the digitised version of the SWALB EDM Survey of Reeth Low Moor with later amendments as Laurie et al. 2011, Figure 6.12.



Record Number 957 >>> Image 4: The original SWALB EDM Survey of Reeth Low Moor West.



Record Number 957 >>> Image 5: View westward across the Bronze Age Cairnfield and the Coaxial field system on Cringley Bottom.

Record Name: Lithic finds of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age Character from a site on Cringley Hill
SWAAG ID Number: 958
Recorded Date: 2016-10-23 16:41:05
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Lithic Find / Scatter
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Footpath
Record Date: 2016-10-23
Location: Cringley Hill
Civil Parish: Reeth
British National Grid: #NY 99813 00449
Altitude: 400m

Geology: Underset Limestone

Description: All finds collected during the 1980's. All these lithics were found within a concentration on a rutted track within a radius of 5m. The majority of the finds are scrapers on chert flakes but with some flint artefacts present also. The single diagnostic find being the small impact fractured flint barbed and tanged arrow head (Sutton Type). The use of this type of arrow head is dated to the period 2500-1500BC,

Reference: Stephen Green, 'Flint Arrowheads: Typology and Interpretation'. Lithics No 5

1984,pp19-39.This arrow head was found together with the scrapers. All these finds were closely concentrated on the surface of a 5m length of rutted track, now fully re-vegetated. See Laurie 2003.

Researching the Prehistory of Wensleydale and Swaledale™, in: Manby et al., eds The Archaeology of Yorkshire™, Plate 40. Y.A.Soc Occ paper No 3.

See Location Map below: Reference RTH004

Dimensions: See Drawing.

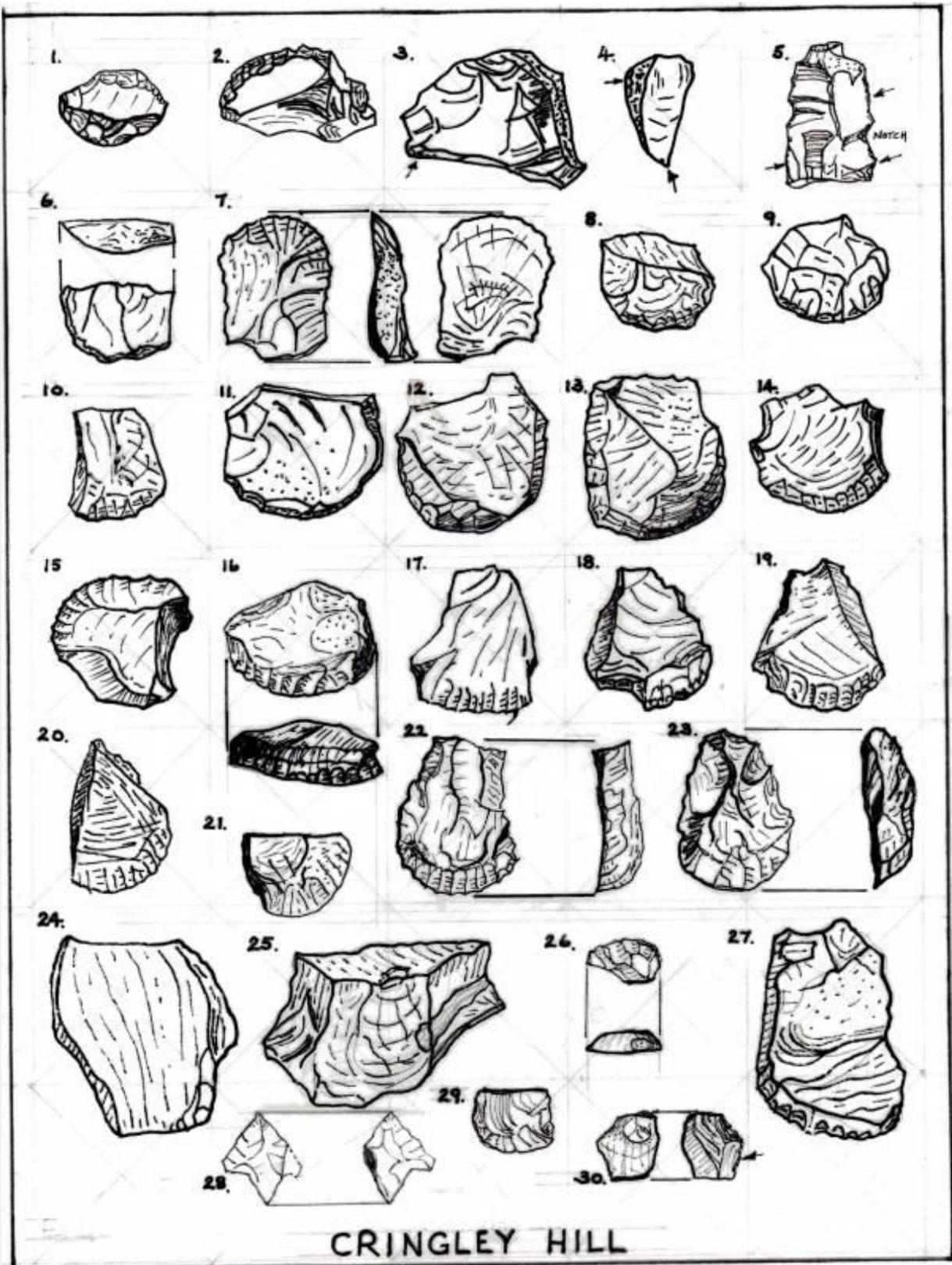
Additional Notes: All the scrapers which form the majority of artefacts from this location have a broad similarity in form and may be the work of one knapper. The presence of one very small scraper not much larger than a pea may point to the use for cutting sinew thread. These finds have been deposited in the Swaledale Museum.

SWAAG Site: Reeth Low Moor

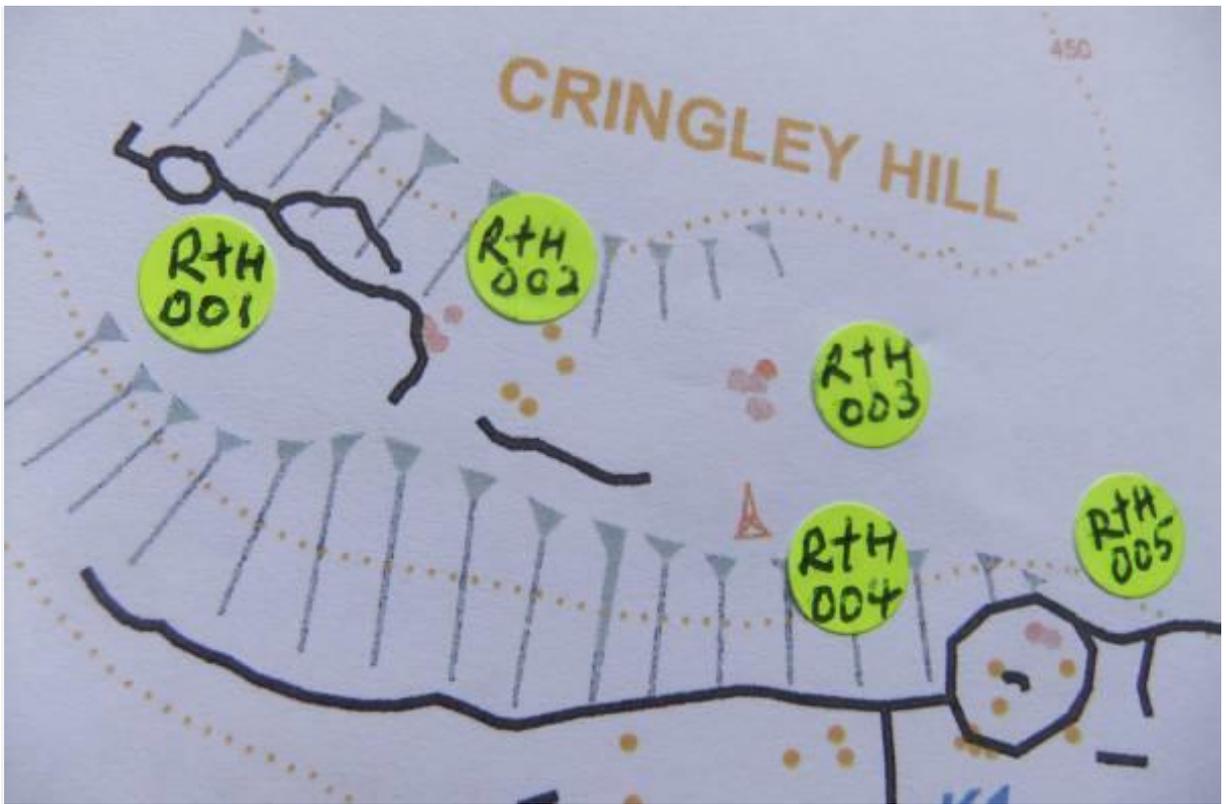
Last Update: 2016-10-23



Record Number 958 >>> Image 1: Cringley Hill, selected lithic finds from Site RTH04



Record Number 958 >>> Image 2: Selected lithic finds all drawn to the same Scale.



Record Number 958 >>> Image 3: Reeth Low Moor, West. Location of Sites.



Record Number 958 >>> Image 4: The finds were found some thirty years ago on this track

Record Name: Prehistoric settlement complex on Cringley Hill

SWAAG ID Number: 959

Recorded Date: 2016-11-02 16:39:26

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Settlement

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-10-16

Location: Reeth Low Moor. Cringley Hill, south terrace.

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: NY 9958 0059

Altitude: 410m

Geology: Chert strata over The Main Limestone

Description: Settlement complex centred on an ovoid stone banked enclosure 35m*25m overall now masked beneath thick heather. Google Earth Historical Imagery indicates the presence of a contained round house within this ovoid enclosure.

The settlement complex comprises several circular house foundations located within a number of stone banked paddock-like fields. These enclosures extend across the upper, south facing slope of Cringley Hill. Recent heather burning has revealed that the stone embanked fields extend from the present track from Fore Gill Gate down to the front edge of the terrace above the very steep slope above Fore Gill. The remains of a possible stone ring and other disturbed structures have been recognised within these enclosures. At the time of this re-visit, the area, previously visible to the east of the ovoid enclosure (RTH01 on the attached survey plan, is now under heather. Interpretation should not rule out the possibility that this small oval enclosure could be an embanked stone circle or ring cairn predating the settlement complex, however I consider this site to be best considered as a high elevation settlement complex characteristic of Bronze Age Settlements throughout Upland Britain.

See attached extracts from the EDM SWALB Survey (with additions) and Laurie, White and Mahaffy, 2004, Figure 6.14 Calverside West.

Dimensions: 400m*200m overall approximately

Additional Notes: These settlement remains were the first to be recognised in Swaledale during field work which led to the formation of the Swaledale Land Boundaries Project.

Reduction of sheep numbers and grazing pressure has made recognition of these early landscapes very difficult where masked below heather.

Fortunately, the episodic heather burning does reveal areas of these settlement landscapes as the photos taken recently at Cringley Hill, see below, confirm.

SWAAG Site: Reeth Low Moor

Last Update: 2016-11-04



Record Number 959 >>> Image 1:



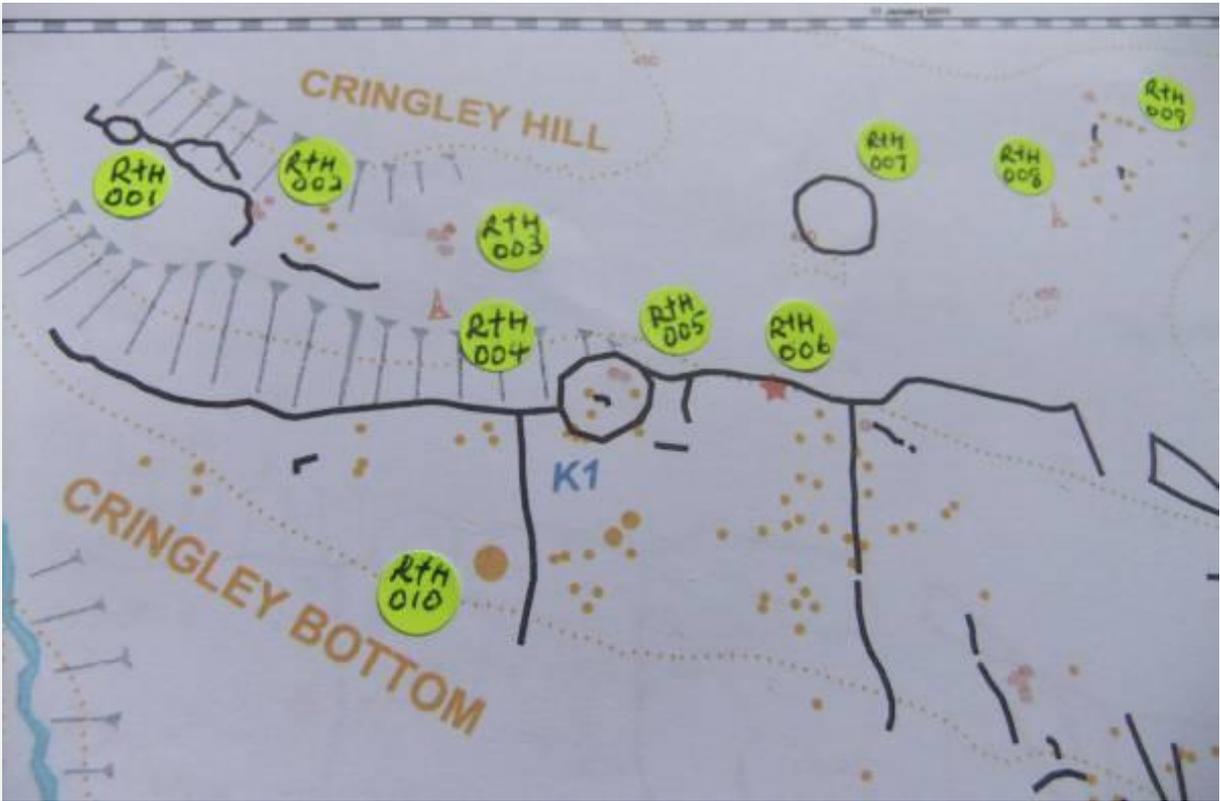
Record Number 959 >>> Image 2:



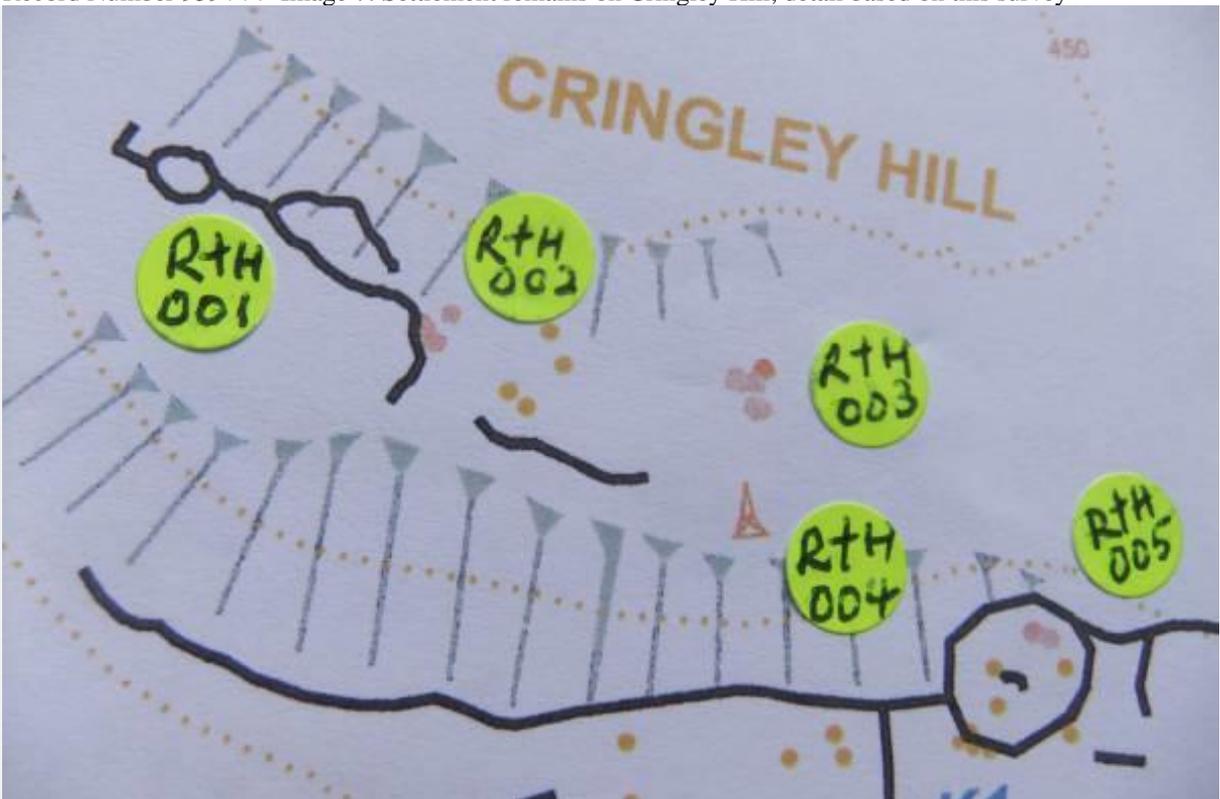
Record Number 959 >>> Image 3:



Record Number 959 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 959 >>> Image 7: Settlement remains on Cringley Hill, detail based on this survey



Record Number 959 >>> Image 8: Settlement remains on Cringley Hill, detail based on this survey.



Record Number 959 >>> Image 9: View over the settlement terrace towards the ovoid enclosure in mid distance. Field boundary and orthostat in foreground.



Record Number 959 >>> Image 10: Early photo of the ovoid enclosure masked in heather.



Record Number 959 >>> Image 11: Ovoid enclosure masked by heather.



Record Number 959 >>> Image 12: Ovoid enclosure masked by heather.

Record Name: Reeth Low Moor. Cringley Bottom. Circular stone banked settlement enclosure with contained clearance mounds and two hut circles.

SWAAG ID Number: 960

Recorded Date: 2016-11-06 19:30:37

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Enclosure

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-11-05

Location: Reeth Low Moor. This enclosure is Location R1 on Figure 6.14 in Laurie et al 2011.

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: NZ 995 004

Altitude: 395m

Geology: WND over Middle Limestone. Spring line.

Description: See Location K1 On the Location Map below, Reference: Laurie, White and Mahaffy 2011. 'Co-axial field systems in Swaledale: a reassessment following recent fieldwork.' Figure 6.14.in; R.D.Martlew Ed.: 'Prehistory in the Yorkshire Dales'. PLACE/Yorkshire Dales Landscape Trust. Circular stone banked enclosure some 70m diameter with contained clearance mounds and two hut circles on the NE perimeter. This enclosure has been slightly scooped into the hillside or local cultivation has formed an over steepened or lynched rear scarp. The two hut circles are usually masked by heather. A third hut circle is located approximately 100m to the east of the enclosure. Field banks abut and presumably incorporate the enclosure on both western and eastern perimeters, see Location Plan. The 19m diameter denuded cairn (RTH010) cairnfield (RTH011) and the coaxial field system (RTH012) all indicate lengthy prehistoric occupation with intensive cultivation or pastoral activity at Low Cringley which is a well watered, south facing elevated terrace.

This settlement complex may also have included the burnt mound (RTH006) which is located at a spring rise approximately 50m to the east of the enclosure.

There can be little doubt that this settlement enclosure is incorporated within a later, fully developed coaxial field system (RTH012) with fields running at right angles across the slope and may be also associated with the adjacent burnt mound.

A total of seven circular stone embanked enclosures have been located on Reeth Low Moor see Laurie et al 2011, Figure 6.12 and 6.14. Similar enclosures are present elsewhere in Swaledale where they are usually incorporated within coaxial field systems. For example on the west side of Grinton / Grove Beck Gill See Laurie et al 2011, Figure 6.9.

Dimensions: Circular stone embanked enclosure 70m diameter approximately

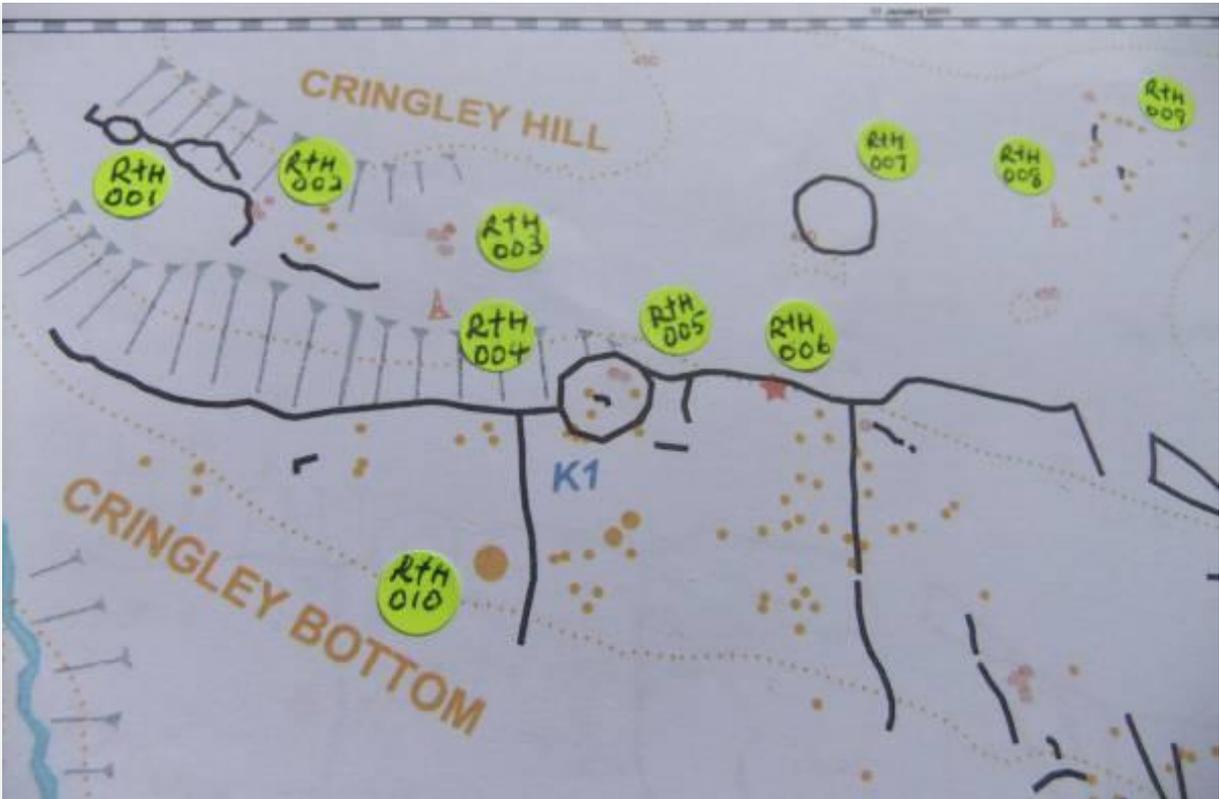
Additional Notes: Note! The stone dump enclosure bank, round houses and cairn features of this feature are marked by and shrouded below deep heather, thus these features are all difficult to see on the photographs.

RTH005.05-11 Curvilinear stone embanked enclosure with two contained round houses and several large and irregular shaped clearance cairns. This enclosure is located and cut into the steep slope at the rear of the gently sloping wide terrace of Low Cringley. Substantial field banks abut this enclosure on both the western and eastern perimeter of the enclosure, see survey plan. These field banks form the upper limit, at around 400m of the coaxial field systems which extend across the whole length of Cringley Hill and Calver Hill. It can therefore be concluded that this enclosure predates field system, see also (RTH 012). A total of seven similar circular embanked enclosures, some with visible contained round houses, have been recorded on Reeth Low Moor. One of these, the fine enclosure on Cringley Hill, has been recorded by the Ordnance Survey on the 1:25000 map and is site R4 on the attached survey

These circular embanked enclosures are as yet undated. They may be the local equivalent of the circular palisaded enclosures of the Cheviot Uplands which have been dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Prehistoric Iron Age. In support of this suggestion, a similar stone banked enclosure further east on Riddings Rig has been visibly quarried out, is overlain by and clearly predates the later of the two coaxial field systems on Reeth Low Moor.

SWAAG Site: Reeth Low Moor

Last Update: 2016-11-06



Record Number 960 >>> Image 1: EDM Survey of Reeth low Moor, Western Section as Laurie et al 2011, Figure 6.14. This enclosure is Location K1 and RTH 005 on this plan



Record Number 960 >>> Image 2: Detail of last



Record Number 960 >>> Image 3: The enclosure bank viewed from the track down from Cringley Hill. Part of the curving heather covered bank is visible, the remainder is masked by vegetation.



Record Number 960 >>> Image 4: The enclosure bank shrouded in heather.



Record Number 960 >>> Image 5: The enclosure bank shrouded in heather.

Record Name: Fine specimen alders and willows on the banks of the Tees at Gainford.

SWAAG ID Number: 961

Recorded Date: 2016-11-14 15:52:46

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2016-11-07

Location: Gainford. The North Bank of the River Tees at the ancient river crossing named Geneford.

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: NZ 168 164

Geology: Riverside silts.

Description: The fine coppiced alder photographed below measures approximately 5m girth at ground level. This tree grows on the North Bank of the Tees at the landing place of the ancient ford once named 'Geneford'. This river crossing is still very shallow and just about passable at low water in wellington boots.

The river scenery at every bend and pool on the Tees, once a fine salmon river, is second to none. The quality of these riverside landscapes owes much to fine trees like the alder and the multi stemmed willow, probably crack willow, (*Salix fragilis*), recorded here.

The Present Day Value of Alders:

The over-riding significance of alders and willows today lies in their ability to form large root boles with many stems or trunks, and their very extensive root system, thus protecting river banks from erosion from high floods and consolidating river bank silt.

Cattle drinking at in protected river banks make all river bank alders vulnerable to being cut out progressively by flood erosion getting behind the riverside trees.

The multitude of uses to which alder coppiced timber and foliage were once put is summarised below.

Dimensions: The alder recorded above measures approximately 5.0m girth

Additional Notes: ALDER WOOD

Historic uses mentioned by James Sowerby in his description of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) Reference: James Sowerby, "English Botany"™ Volume Eight, pp178-180.

1. The alder grows- to form Alder Car- where very few other trees will grow- in the wettest, most swampy conditions.
2. Alder was used extensively in Flanders and Holland to make the piles of bridges and flood protection dikes.
3. Alder wood makes very durable fence posts in water but is vulnerable to rot when in dry ground.
4. Earliest boat building (mentioned by the Roman Poet Vergil).
5. Large quantities used in making herring barrels.
6. Bark of alder is "very astringent"™ and used in tanning.
4. Young shoots used both for tanning and for dyeing red, brown, yellow and, in combination with copperas "black.
7. Alder catkins dye green.
8. Alder female catkins used by fishermen to float their nets in place of cork. Highlanders make their own shoes and use alder and birch bark for tanning.
9. French cabinet makers use the knotty parts of the roots of alder as inlays.
10. Alder leaves were used as a "detergent"™ and as a gargle.
11. Alder foliage spread over fields through winter to rot and fertilise before ploughing.
12. Alder foliage strewn over floors to attract fleas which stick to the glutinous sap. Like birdlime.
13. Mr London tells us that the chief use of alder is as coppice wood cut down every five or six years and made into gun powder. Alder charcoal grinds down to the finest particle size and thus makes the best quality gun powder. Extensively used by the lead miners of Swaledale.

Last Update: 2016-11-14



Record Number 961 >>> Image 1: A fine old alder on the north bank of the River Tees at the River Crossing at Gainford



Record Number 961 >>> Image 2: The same alder



Record Number 961 >>> Image 3: The River Tees at Gainford, at the ancient ford connecting Gainford with the old village of Barforth and all points south.



Record Number 961 >>> Image 4: A fine clump of willows probably *Salix fragilis*, on the south bank of the Tees at Gainfrd.

Record Name: Bronze Age and Later Prehistoric Settlement on Stainmore Summit south of Rey Cross and the A66 Road

SWAAG ID Number: 962

Recorded Date: 2016-11-20 12:16:30

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Settlement

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-11-03

Location: Stainmore Summit. South of Rey Cross and the A66 Road .

Civil Parish: Bowes

British National Grid: NY 901 121

Altitude: 420m

Geology: This settlement is located on the line of the Stainmore Fault with both limestone and sandstone strata exposed. Rock strewn terrace below sandstone fault scarp. This terrace overlooks the glaciated valley of The River Greta and commands fine views eastward through the Stainmore Pass.

Description: The settlement remains recorded here are located immediately south of Rey Cross and directly below the A66 Road. The evidence for Bronze Age and Later Prehistoric Settlement activities survive for a distance of some 500m eastward from a recently recognised burnt mound located at a spring rise at NY900121,425m AOD.

The visible archaeological remains include the following features recognised during one brief walkover:
Bronze Age Remains

Structures characteristic of Bronze Age Activity include:

1. A medium size burnt mound some 7m*4m overall located at a spring rise. See image No 10 below.
2. A slight stone banked ringwork with attached cairn. See Photo Image No 7 below
3. A probable ring cairn (or small hut circle), see image nos 5 and 6 below. This ring work is defined by a circular stone dump bank with larger retaining stones on both sides but with no visible entrance. The absence of an entrance and relatively small diameter of this ring bank suggests that this feature is not a hut circle.

Later prehistoric settlement remains:

4. Extensive simple and roughly constructed sub rectangular or sub circular stone walled enclosures and small circular structures typical of transient high level sheiling type hutments and stock pens of all and any period. The features have been surveyed within the walled pasture. Further stone structures which may be small hut circles are located at the base of the steep rocky slope outside the modern field wall. The settlement is described within the A66 Project as Romano British in date. The Final A66 Project Survey is less specific and describes these features as of different periods. See extracts from the A66 Survey Plan, Image Nos 2 and 3 below.

5. Hut circles and enclosures north of the modern enclosed pasture wall and additional to those surveyed by the A66 project have been recognised. See note on A66 Survey extract below.

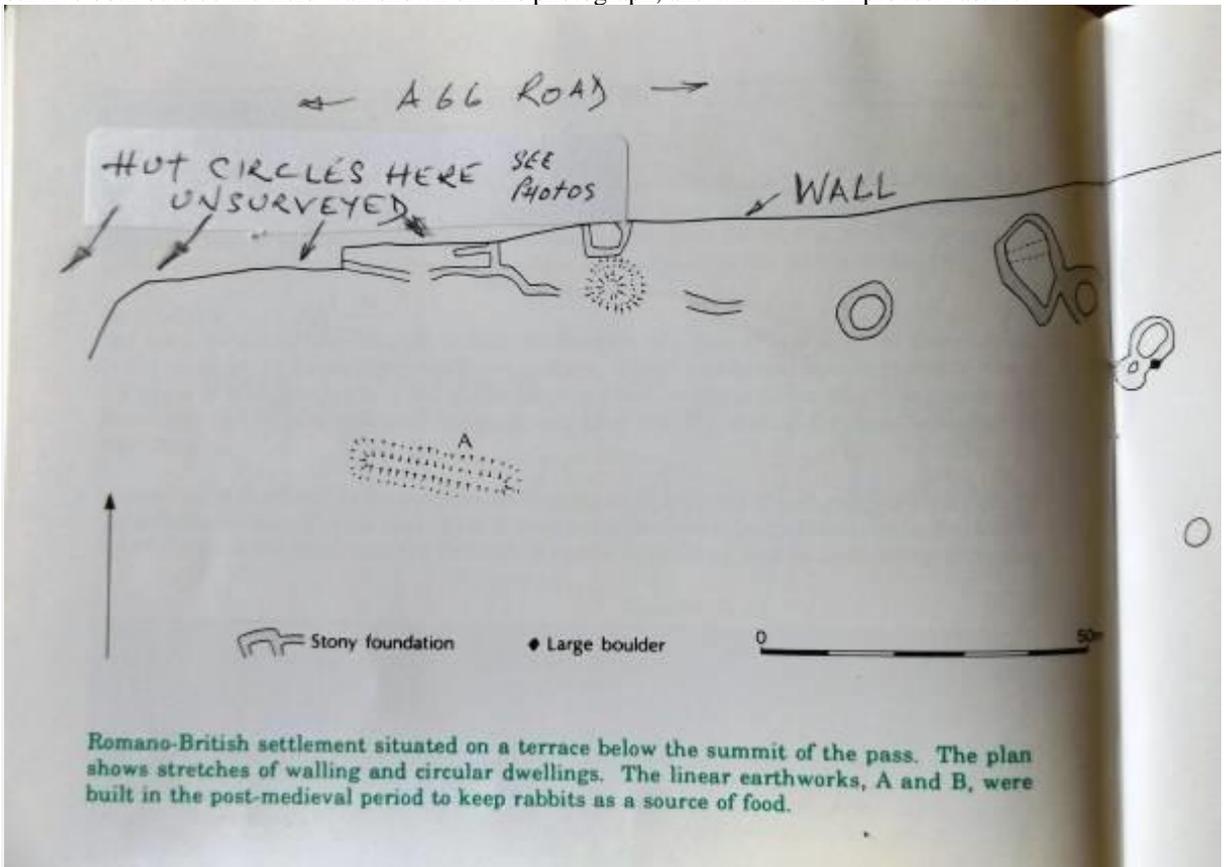
Dimensions: Settlement remains on rock strewn terrace over a distance of 500m approximately

Additional Notes: This record is intended to be a brief introduction to this multi period settlement complex which is of considerable interest. It is well located to take advantage of the good grazing available on the limestone outcrops of the Great Limestone and Four Fathom limestone. The settlement is at a remote but strategic location immediately below the Roman Road and Marching Camp at Rey Cross. The Late Viking Rey Cross itself and east of the isolated rectangular structure interpreted as a Viking Age Long House first recorded by the Late Dennis Coggins (Coggins, D. 1992. 'Shielings and farmsteads: Early Rectangular Buildings in Upper Teesdale.' Durham Archaeological Journal 8, 1992. 77-83. Figure 2(d)). This isolated rectangular structure has been revisited and will be described separately within a future Record on this Database.

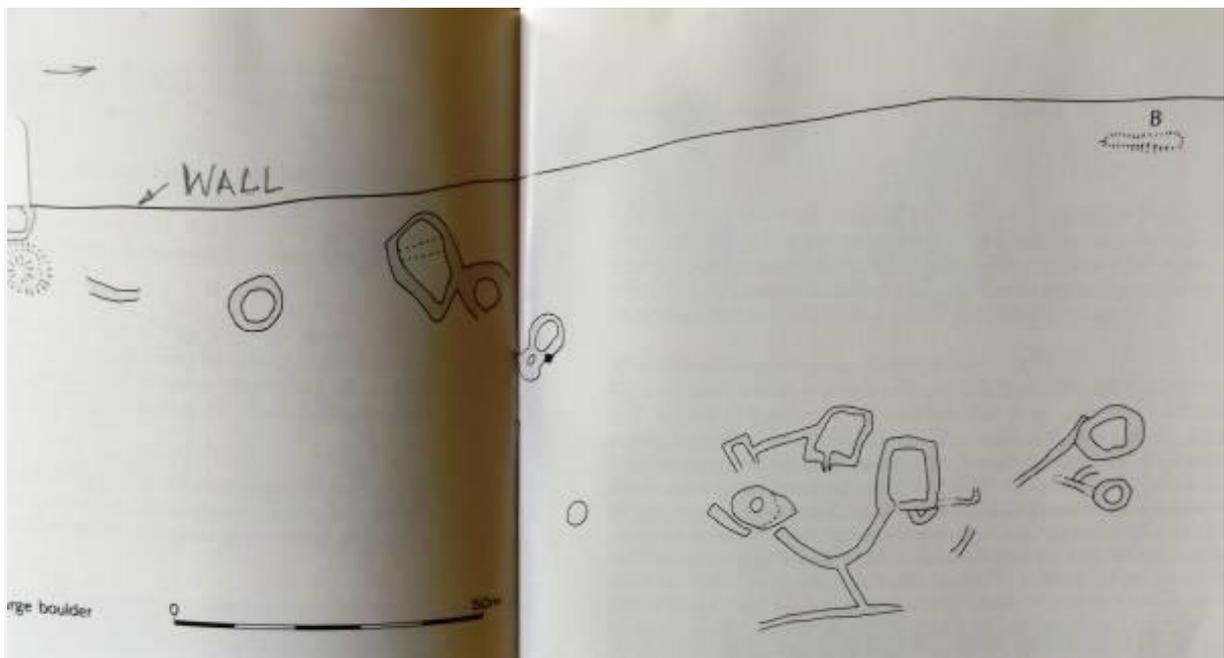
Last Update: 2016-11-22



Record Number 962 >>> Image 1: Stainmore Summit, below Rey Cross. Undated settlement remains survive both outside the field wall shown on this photograph, and within this improved Pasture.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 2: Extract from the A66 Project 1989/91 Booklet Survey plan with additions. The western part of the settlement within the walled field and the location of further hut circles (see photos below) cut by and outside the modern dry stone field wall.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 3: Extract from the A66 Project 1989/91 Booklet Survey plan with additions. The western part of the settlement within the walled field and the location of further hut circles (see photos below) cut by and outside the modern dry stone field wall.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 4: View down from the fault scarp to show the western part of this settlement and the additional hut circles outside the field wall not shown on the A66 Project Plan.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 5: Spring rise. field wall and circular ring bank some ten metres south of the stone wall and within the improved pasture. This ring bank has no entrance and is interpreted as a possible ring cairn.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 6: Spring rise, field wall and the possible ring cairn



Record Number 962 >>> Image 7: Spring rise. field wall and slight curvilinear stone banked enclosure with attached collapsed cairn or possible beehive hut structure.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 8: Rectangular structure some 20m *5m overall interpreted as a Norse Long House. This structure backs onto the scarp slope below the A66 Road as the Articulated vehicle

indicates. Hoard of Viking silver bars now in the Bowes Museum found nearby.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 9: View of the same structure from the slope above.



Record Number 962 >>> Image 10: Medium sized burnt mound at spring rise below the sandstone scarp slope. View eastward towards the settlement

Record Name: Burnt mound at south of the A66 Road at Stainmore Summit.

SWAAG ID Number: 963

Recorded Date: 2016-11-22 16:11:13

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Burnt Mound

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-11-03

Location: Stainmore Summit. South of Rey Cross and the A66 Road .

Civil Parish: Bowes

British National Grid: NY 900 121

Altitude: 425m

Geology: Spring rise below steep sandstone scarp on the line of the Stainmore Faults.

Description: Medium size burnt mound 7m*4m*1m high, located at a spring rise on the steep slopes south of the A66 Road and immediately below the Rey Cross Marching Camp. The double humps of this crescentic burnt mound which are so characteristic of most burnt mounds were first recognised during a recent visit to re-examine the areas with prehistoric and later settlement remains recorded during archaeological surveys directed by Blaise Vyner and others, (Reference: Blaise Vyner with Richard Annis, Pip Robinson, John Pickin, James Innes and others: 'Archaeology on the line of a North Pennine Pass'. English Heritage. 1989-92). This survey work was completed preparatory to the dualling of this high section of the A66 trunk road. These surveys extended across the open moorland and enclosed pastures on both sides of the A66 Road. Excavations were centred on areas affected by the road construction works.

Many of the areas with archaeological remains and features surveyed in the A66 Project had been recognised and briefly described previously, for example:

1. The 20m diameter boulder circle located within the Roman Marching Camp at Rey Cross and interpreted as a stone circle or ring cairn was first recognised by Mrs Shirley Thubron.
2. The shieling type settlements south of REY Cross and below the A66 road had been recognised and were interpreted as seasonal shielings by the Late Dennis Coggins (Coggins, D. 1992. Shielings and Farmsteads : Early Rectangular Buildings in Upper Teesdale. Durham Archaeological Journal 8, 1992,77-83.
3. The very extensive Bronze Age cairnfield settlement and field system on Bowes Moor north of the A66 Road, at Ravock and on the north facing slopes above Deepdale which were surveyed in great detail within the A66 Project had been recognised previously (Laurie, T.C. 1985 'Early settlement and land division in Swaledale and on the eastern approaches to the Stainmore Pass.' in: Spratt, D and Burgess, C. 1985. Upland Settlement in Britain: the second millennium BC and after. BAR 143. and Publications Section, this Website.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: For details and a brief photographic survey of the shieling type settlements in the nearby Walled Pasture to the east of this burnt mound which were surveyed and described within the A66 Project, see also the preceding Record No 962, this Database.

Last Update: 2016-11-22



Record Number 963 >>> Image 1: The burnt mound, view eastward.



Record Number 963 >>> Image 2: The burnt mound, view westward.



Record Number 963 >>> Image 3: The burnt mound, and the spring rise.



Record Number 963 >>> Image 4: The burnt mound and the spring rise seen from below.



Record Number 963 >>> Image 5: The shieling type settlements are located within and above these walled improved pastures, some 150m east of the burnt mound.

Record Name: Archaeological Landscapes of Reeth Low Moor. Cairnfield settlement complex below Cringley Hill

SWAAG ID Number: 964

Recorded Date: 2016-11-25 10:51:18

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Settlement

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2011-09-10

Location: Reeth Low Moor, Cringley Bottom

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: NY 997 003

Altitude: 395m

Geology: See British Geological Survey England and Wales Sheet 41 Richmond. The uppermost strata of Cringley Hill and Calver Hill are the Richmond Cherts and the Main Limestone. The Middle Limestone outcrops on the Dale sides below Riddings Farm.

Description: References RTH01- are to the Sites Numbered on the SWALB EDM survey plan with later additions, Laurie et al 2011. For the full survey and introduction to the Cairnfield Settlement Complex, the Coaxial Field System below Cringley Hill (Calverside West) and the settlements within the Barney Beck Pastures (from Nova Scotia to Low Cringley) see SWALB Survey attached and Laurie et al 2011.

Cairnfield extending from Fore Gill eastward to, beyond and below Cleasby Intake within the area of the coaxial field system recorded separately in this database. At least 75 stone cairns, usually more or less reduced by quarrying. This cairnfield survives on open moorland above the enclosed Barney Beck Pastures and are associated with short lengths of irregular field walling which are unconformable with the organised coaxial field boundaries (RTH012).

For record purposes, it has been assumed that the isolated large round cairn (RTH010) the cairnfield and the associated irregular field banks (RTH011) the Burnt Mound (RTH 006) represent the earliest phase of agricultural activity at Low Cringley and that the curvilinear enclosures (RTH005 and RTH 00*) and the co-axial field systems (RTH012 and RTH01*) represent a subsequent more managed landscape. Most of the cairns have been slighted by subsequent, probably recent, stone quarrying however it is significant that several cairns located at very close proximity to coaxial field banks have NOT been reduced to form the banks and therefore that the coaxial field system may have developed from the cairnfield stage of occupation.

All features other than the cairnfield and the associated short lengths of irregular field banks are recorded separately. The slight remains of the very large 19m diameter round cairn situated close to and quarried away for the modern pasture walls above Low Cringley Farm are recorded separately as RTH009. The two 8m diameter circular cairns which are relatively undisturbed at NY99765 00306 are photographed and identified separately as RTH011A and 011B as they are relatively well built, are distinctive and have visible kerbs.

No archaeological features are mapped within the walled pastures at Cleasby Intake, however it may be assumed that the cairnfield once extended across these pastures also.

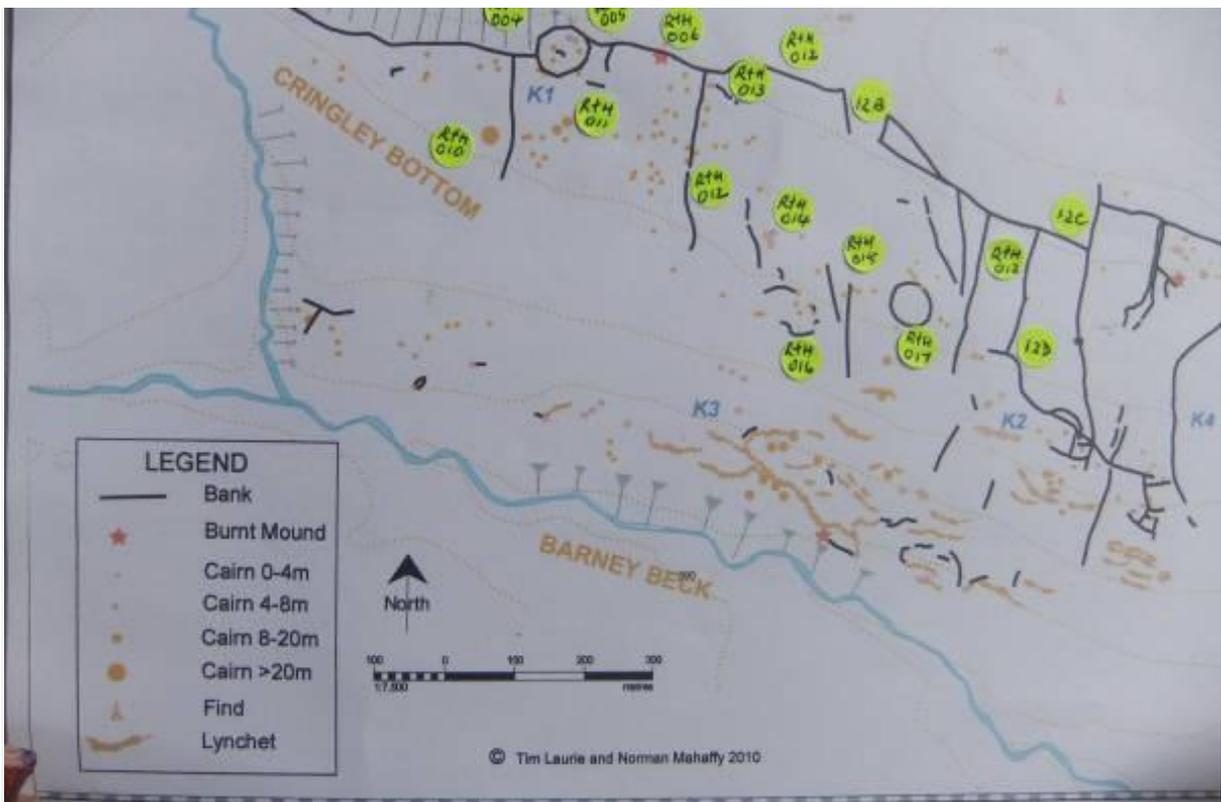
Dimensions: NY99765 00306 or 399765 500306 (centre)

Additional Notes: From experience elsewhere in Upland Britain, see References, there are reasons to conclude that the cairnfield below Cringley Hill should be the earliest agricultural activity on Reeth Low Moor predating the coaxial field system (RTH012) and may relate to Late Bronze Age or earlier settlement activity centred on the two large circular stone banked enclosures recorded separately as RTH005 and RTH017.

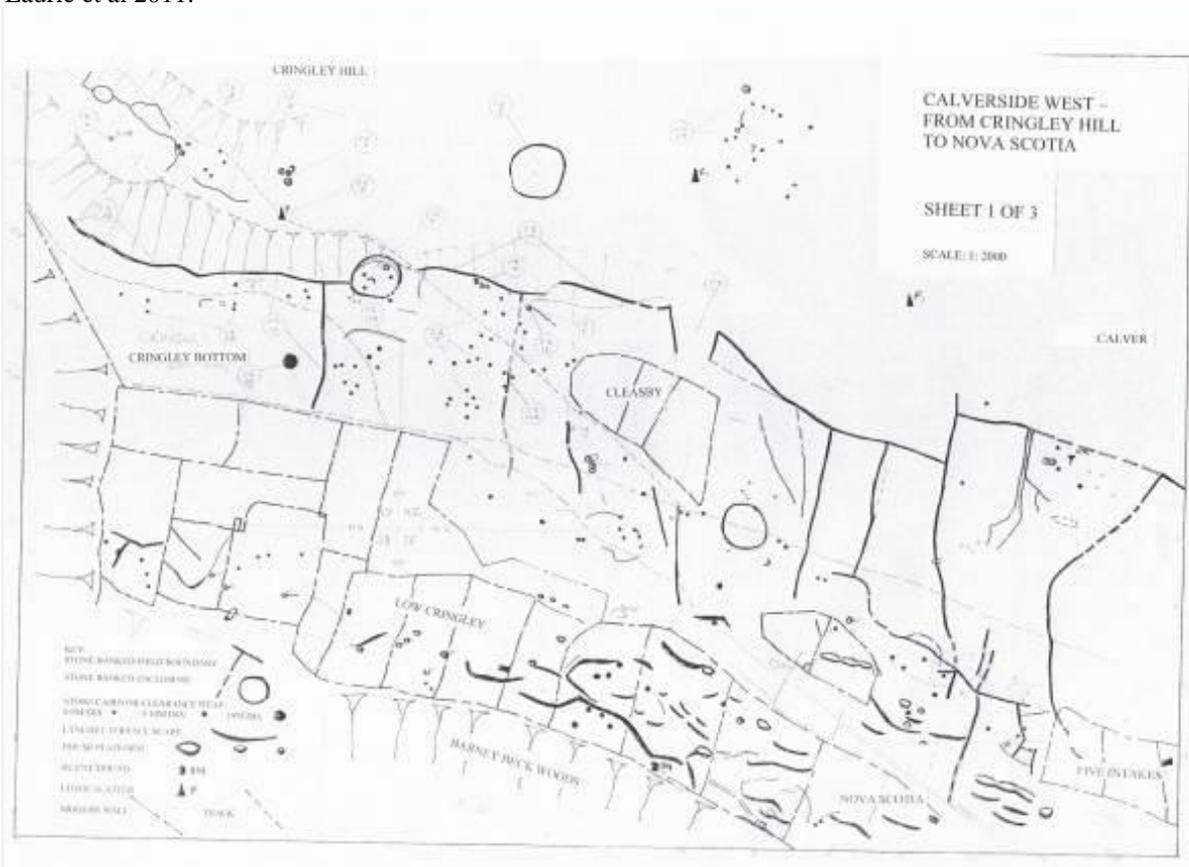
Equally there is evidence to conclude that the cairnfield was relevant and was an active element during the period of the occupation of the coaxial field system. There is no evidence that the small cairns were robbed for material to form the coaxial banks. For example, at Location RTH12 on the attached survey extract, a coaxial field bank passes within 5m distance from and directly between three small cairns. The same boundary passes close to at least three further cairns all of which are complete and unslighted

SWAAG Site: Reeth Low Moor

Last Update: 2017-06-06



Record Number 964 >>> Image 1: Calverside West. SWALB EDM survey plan with later additions, Laurie et al 2011.



Record Number 964 >>> Image 2: Calverside West. SWALB EDM survey plan, Laurie et al 2011.

Record Name: Maiden Castle, Stainmore. A small fortlet strategically located at Stainmore Summit on the line of the roman road, high above the Vale of Eden

SWAAG ID Number: 965

Recorded Date: 2016-12-05 17:36:20

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Earthworks

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-11-24

Location: Stainmore Summit. At edge of the high fell North of the A66 Dual Carriageway

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: NY 873 132

Altitude: 430m

Geology: The Little Limestone above a steep sandstone scarp slope.

Description: This small fortlet is strategically located to control traffic at the highest point on the line of the Roman Road where the road rises eastward from the Vale of Eden to cross the Pennine escarpment. The Roman road, seen here as a narrow and deep hollow way, passes through the centre of the fort. Other similar hollow ways take different tracks up to and beyond the fort. One of these leads to an entrance at the SW corner of the fort, another avoids the fort and passes the NW corner. The line of a later, probably recent and more substantial carriageway passes on the northern side of the fort. This later road is entirely grassed over.

This small fortlet is defended by a single, relatively slight, bank and ditch. It is probable that the bank formed the footing of a timber stockade.

There are no visible structures to denote occupation within the fortlet.

However there are the disturbed remains of several substantial stone founded buildings together with smaller irregular hutments within a stone walled enclosure immediately to the east of the fort, to be recorded as a separate SWAAG Record. Most notable of these structures are the slight outline of at least one large circular building and the foundations of one very large rectangular building. These buildings may together constitute the 'barracks' of this outpost of the Roman Empire. The primary purpose being to control traffic across this, the lowest and most direct crossing of the Pennines.

This small fort may initially have provided an advance base for the expeditionary scout detachment acting as the reconnaissance unit for the Roman Advance into Northern Britain under the command of Petilius Cerialis during the years AD70-72. In later years this fort would have provided the base or a detachment controlling the traffic across the Pennines.

Dimensions: 70m*70m and see photos.

Additional Notes: The See the photo images below for the spectacular location of this fortlet high above the present line of the A66.

Access to this fortlet and the roman road from the A66 is very difficult and great care is needed when parking on the lay-bys of this very busy road. The fort can be accessed from a busy lay-by on the east bound carriageway at the top of the steep pass at Stainmore Summit. Alternately, but only possible after a strenuous direct and pathless climb up the steep fell to the fort from a culvert passing under the A66 Road. This culvert can be accessed from the minor road to Kaber directly below the A66 road.

The settlement remains adjacent to the Maiden Castle Fortlet have not been surveyed within the A66 Project or recorded elsewhere in any detail so far as I am aware. This settlement will be the subject of a subsequent SWAAG Database Record.

Last Update: 2016-12-07



Record Number 965 >>> Image 1: The direct climb up to the fort is steep and rocky. The A66 Road passes far below on the way westward towards the Vale of Eden (Westmoreland), the Lake District (Cumberland) and then to Galloway and Ireland.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 2: The upper edge of the Fell below the Fort is rocky and has been

quarried.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 3: The Roman Road approached the fort from the West on this hollow way which leads to an entrance through the centre of the western side of the Fort



Record Number 965 >>> Image 4: On the Eastern approach, the Roman Road is visible as a narrow, deep

hollow way which leads directly to the entrance of the Fort through the eastern side.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 5: The Roman Road is visible as a narrow, deep hollow way which leads directly to the eastern entrance of the Fort



Record Number 965 >>> Image 6: A wide gap has been cut through the NE Corner of the Fort. The

reason for this gap is uncertain.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 7: View westward to The Maiden Castle Fortlet across the remains of a settlement which, from various surface finds of Roman Pottery has been shown to be contemporary with the Fortlet.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 8: This low curving bank forms the Northern Side of the Fortlet.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 9: This low curving bank forms the Western Side of the Fortlet.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 10: View westward from the settlement across the Vale of Eden. Blencathra and the other snow covered Lake District Hills prominent on the horizon.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 11: The Roman Road is visible as a narrow, deep hollow way which leads directly to the eastern entrance of the Fort



Record Number 965 >>> Image 12: At least three different hollow ways lead up to the western side of Maiden Castle Fortlet. Two of these lead to gateways in the centre and SW Corner. One track skirts the

NW corner of the Fort.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 13: This hollow way skirts the Fortlet passing outside the NW corner.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 14: At least two hollow ways pass through the interior of the Fortlet. This approaches the central gateway in the West Side.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 15: This hollow Way leads to an entrance through the SW Corner of the Fort



Record Number 965 >>> Image 16: The South east corner of the fort. View Westward.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 17: Entrance through the centre of the Eastern side of the fort.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 18: View of the hollow way inside the fort close to the entrance through the South west corner.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 19: Slightly curving bank of the South side of the fort.



Record Number 965 >>> Image 20: The Western side of the fort with the central entrance.

Record Name: Curvilinear enclosed settlement in pastures below Robson House. The more easterly of two adjacent similar settlements.
SWAAG ID Number: 966
Recorded Date: 2016-12-12 19:06:11
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Settlement
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Footpath
Record Date: 2016-12-11
Location: Walled pastures below (North of) Robson House Farm
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid: SD 9792 9710
Description: Large curvilinear enclosed deeply scooped (levelled into the hill slope) settlement platform with rear scarp and front apron originally stone revetted. Four visible stone founded round houses within.

The enclosing perimeter bank survives in part on the eastern side.

Associated track, lynchets and field banks survive in improved pasture the vicinity of this well preserved settlement.

A modern barn has been built on the North West segment of this settlement platform. This settlement is the more easterly of two adjacent similar settlements. The second settlement (to be recorded separately) is located in the adjacent improved pasture some 200m to the west. This is a settlement of similar character and both settlements are of Native Late Iron Age character and may have been occupied during the period of Roman Occupation. Both settlements and associated field banks are very ploughed down by subsequent agricultural operations in improved pasture.

Both Sites 1 and 2 are unsurveyed. Aerial photographs should assist in the interpretation of these large settlements

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: Archaeological notes:

Stone built, curvilinear scooped platform settlements preceded by timber built Phases have been shown to have been occupied from the Prehistoric Iron Age through the period of Roman Occupation, throughout the Uplands of Northern Britain (see Burgess, 1970. Jobey, 1960-64, Coggins and Fairless, 1980. RCHME Westmoreland, Laurie 1986).

References:

â€¢Burgess, C.B. 1970, Trans D&N 2, 1-26.

â€¢Coggins, D and Fairless K.J. 1980. Trans. D&N 5, 31-8

â€¢Jobey, G. Arch. Aeliana 4th Series 38,1960, 1-38; 39, 1961, 87-102; 40,1962, 47-58; 41, 1963, 19-35 and 211-215; 42, 1964, 41-64.

â€¢Laurie, T.C. 1986. An enclosed settlement near East Mellwaters Farm, Bowes, Co Durham. Durham Arch. J. Vol. 1, 35-39.

For discussion on the timber/stone built settlement succession in the northern uplands, from unenclosed round house settlements of the Mid to Late Bronze Age to palisaded settlements during the earlier Iron Age, then enclosed curvilinear settlements of later Iron/RB Age and finally to enclosed rectangular settlements of the Native Roman Period. see the Publications of Colin Burgess and Professor George Jobey cited above.

â€¢Jobey,G Arch. Aeliana 5,1, 1973, 55-79; Burgess, C. in Burgess,C

â€¢Miket (ed.), Between and Beyond the Walls, 1984, 164-73

SWAAG Site: Whitaside

Last Update: 2016-12-15



Record Number 966 >>> Image 1: Aerial view. Google Earth image.



Record Number 966 >>> Image 2: View westward across the settlement



Record Number 966 >>> Image 3: View eastward across the settlement

Record Name: Stang Foot. Platform settlement on south bank of Scargill Beck close to the Stang Road.
SWAAG ID Number: 967
Recorded Date: 2016-12-14 12:13:45
Recorded by: Tim Laurie
Category: Settlement
Record Type: Archaeology
Record Date: 0000-00-00
Location: Stang Foot. Steep bank above Scargill Beck
Civil Parish: Hope
British National Grid: NZ 0258 0956
Altitude: 310m
Geology: Glacial Drift over
Description: Well defined enclosed platform settlement of Late Iron Age or Native Roman character located on the steep south bank of Scargill Beck. Clear trackways connect this settlement with the line of a probable Roman Road underlying the modern Stang Road. This road is the direct route connecting Greta Bridge Roman Fort with the Fort at Bainbridge.
Dimensions: See photos. Not yet surveyed.
Additional Notes: This settlement may prove to be the precursor to the erstwhile and nearby Stang Foot Inn which, some fifty years ago, was a popular and necessary Refuge for travellers crossing the Stang Road and for thirsty locals alike.
Last Update: 2017-06-06

Record Name: The largest single stem yew in Swaledale

SWAAG ID Number: 968

Recorded Date: 2016-12-17 17:28:32

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree/Shrub Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Private

Record Date: 2010-09-17

Location: Swaledale

Civil Parish: Marske

British National Grid: #SE 0978 0160

Geology: Block scree below Limestone Scar

Description: The minimum girth of this fine yew measures 5.07m (16ft 9inches) girth below the first branch. The exposed powerful main roots of this ancient yew grow astride a large block of limestone in block scree below a limestone scar. It is my understanding the roots can only grow through soil and it is clear that the base of this tree is far above present soil level. Does this imply that when this yew tree germinated, the contemporary soil level was above this limestone block on which the tree grows? For full details and very fine pencil drawings of the cliff yews and very many representative drawings of all tree species of Swaledale, see Mrs Jocelyn Campbell's fine and comprehensive book: 'Trees in the Swaledale Landscape' recently published by Stephen Eastmead on behalf of SWAAG.

Dimensions: 5.07m (16ft 9 inches) minimum girth below the first branches.

Additional Notes: This fine ancient yew is the largest single stem yew tree recorded to date in Swaledale. This tree is not necessarily the oldest yew tree in Swaledale. The most ancient trees grow at the top edge of the most exposed limestone scars. These high cliff edge yews grow exceedingly slowly and are multi-stemmed. These cliff edge trees are of considerable width and comprise many individual stems or trunks. They lose many of these stems to high winds and throw up replacements from a root system which extends far into the cliff face. These cliff edge yews can live indefinitely. Unbelievably the annual rings counted from sections cut through wind-blown stems of cliff yews can be as close as 3-4 rings per mm. Single stem yews growing in church yards or at more sheltered locations in Swaledale grow at the much faster rate of one annual ring every 2-3mm.

Last Update: 2016-12-18



Record Number 968 >>> Image 1: The largest yew recognised to date in Swaledale.

Record Name: Ellerton Scar. Two fine prostrate junipers (*Juniperus communis* ssp. *nana*). Swaledale's least and most ancient woody plants:

SWAAG ID Number: 969

Recorded Date: 2016-12-21 16:49:41

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree/Shrub Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 0000-00-00

Location: Ellerton Scar

Civil Parish: Ellerton Abbey

British National Grid:

Geology: Isolated stack detached from the vertical face of a sheer cliff formed from the Main Limestone.

Description: These two prostrate junipers provide a complete contrast to the 'mighty' Native Yew whose trunk is in excess of 5.00m girth recorded on the preceding SWAAG Database Record. These two low-growing forms of Juniper grow on the inaccessible summit of an isolated stack of limestone detached from the front of Ellerton Scar. The prostrate form of juniper carpets the summit plateaux of the Cairngorms and will be familiar to those who have hiked across many other exposed and stony high mountain summits in Northern Upland Britain. These junipers or their direct ancestors may have colonised the front edge of Ellerton Scar during the early Post Glacial Period.

The prostrate form of Juniper is recognised by its carpeting habit and by the the needle like small leaves not exceeding 10mm in length*1.5mm wide.

Dimensions: 30cm (1ft.) in height and less than 1 metre width estimated

Additional Notes: Junipers, including this the prostrate, ground carpeting form of juniper, were among the earliest shrubs to colonise Britain during the first period of climatic warming following the final retreat of the glaciers. During subsequent periods, junipers were almost certainly more widespread throughout Swaledale. I have recorded Junipers at more than 40 separate localities in Swaledale. These Swaledale records include at least six areas of juniper scrub, the largest of these areas being the Harkerside Junipers. Most Juniper localities are however of less than five isolated shrubs. Single ancient Junipers with serpentine twisted and coiled branches, sole survivors of a population more widespread are found at remote waterfalls, often in company with aspen groves.

The 100,000th Ancient Tree to be recorded on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory is an ancient juniper located in a small stand of similar ancient Junipers above Spring End in Swaledale.

Prostrate Form of Juniper have been recorded at several other localities in Swaledale, notably on Oxnop Scar and at How Edge Scars.

NOTE! Beware! Danger of Death! These cliffs are generally pathless except for sheep tracks and are extremely dangerous especially to anyone who is inexperienced in climbing and who suffers from vertigo.

SWAAG Site: Ellerton Moor

Last Update: 2016-12-21



Record Number 969 >>> Image 1: Ellerton Scar. The two prostrate junipers grow close together on the summit of the detached limestone stack.



Record Number 969 >>> Image 2: The stack photographed from above.



Record Number 969 >>> Image 3: The locality of the two prostrate Junipers photographed from the sheep track at the top of the cliff by Edward (Eddie) Parker, Author of the highly recommended 'Ancient Trees. Trees that live for a thousand years.' Published by Batsford on behalf of Kew, 2012. Eddie has photographed and published many books on the World's most notable Trees.



Record Number 969 >>> Image 4: Ellerton Scar possesses very many wonderful specimen yews and other trees and is surely one of the most beautiful of all the limestone Scars in the Yorkshire Dales



Record Number 969 >>> Image 5: The locality of the two prostrate Junipers being photographed from the sheep track at the top of the cliff by Edward (Eddie) Parker, Photographer of the World's most notable Trees.



Record Number 969 >>> Image 6: Ellerton Scar . Two prostrate form Junipers. Detail of the foliage.

Record Name: Gods Bridge, a natural limestone platform over the River Greta and a walk on excellent permissive footpaths downstream

SWAAG ID Number: 970

Recorded Date: 2016-12-28 13:36:13

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Photographic Record

Record Type: Geomorphology

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2016-12-27

Location: Gods Bridge

Civil Parish: Bowes

British National Grid: NY 956 126

Altitude: 310m

Geology: This walk follows a permissive footpath along the South Bank of the River Greta downstream from Gods Bridge. Of particular interest are the emergence of springs from small cavities in the limestone close to the river. At least one of these has been shown to be the entrance to a cave. The Greta has formed a slight, (post glacial?) river gorge with fine exposures of the Great or Main Limestone which forms the (mostly) dry bed and banks for a distance of almost a kilometre downstream. The limestone then dips sharply before disappearing below thin bedded chert strata which is well exposed at a fine vertical North Bank Cliff.

Description: This record is a mainly photographic record of the many interesting features seen during winter afternoon walk on the South Bank of the River Greta downstream from Gods Bridge to the permissive footpath through the Pastures of East Mellwaters Farm. The riverside and other permissive paths on East Mellwaters Farm are shown on the excellent Footpath Map displayed at The Farm. See Image Nos below.

Whereas this record is of the walk downstream from Gods Bridge, commencing on the Pennine Way where it crosses the A66 at Pasture End I would strongly advise against parking and commencing the walk on the Pennine Way where it crosses the A66 Dual Carriageway from Pasture End. I would advise commencing this walk from East Mellwaters Farm and combining the walk upstream along the river bank to Gods Bridge with a walk on excellent permissive paths around the pastures of the Farm. The entrance to East Mellwaters Farm is off the A66 at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference NY968130. The farm offers accessible self catering accommodation in farmhouse cottages.

The car park to the left of the cottages may be used by visitors wishing to undertake the farm trail.

Alternately, commence your walk from Bowes on the Pennine Way Diversion or from Gilmonby.

Dimensions: See Footpath Map.

Additional Notes: The entrance to East Mellwaters Farm is off the A66 at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference NY968130. The farm offers accessible self catering accommodation in farmhouse cottages.

The car park to the left of the cottages may be used by visitors wishing to undertake the farm trail.

This is a general record of features seen. Several features, for example the Stainmore Railway track, the chert strata and isolated ancient Yew deserve to be the subject of additional specific records.

Last Update: 2016-12-28



Record Number 970 >>> Image 1: Gods Bridge seen downstream from the North Bank



Record Number 970 >>> Image 2: Gods Bridge. Resurgence springs rise from crevices in the river bed and from the limestone rocks upstream on both banks.



Record Number 970 >>> Image 3: The Greta upstream from Gods Bridge on her way to a distant source above Stainmore



Record Number 970 >>> Image 4: The Greta downstream of Gods Bridge



Record Number 970 >>> Image 5: The East Mellwater Farm Footpath Map is posted at commencement of the walks from the Farm



Record Number 970 >>> Image 6: The Greta views further downstream of Gods Bridge



Record Number 970 >>> Image 7: One of the many fine disused limekilns on both banks close to the river



Record Number 970 >>> Image 8: Limestone forms the, mostly, dry bed of the Greta downstream of Gods Bridge



Record Number 970 >>> Image 9: Bend on the Greta with fine exposures of limestone.



Record Number 970 >>> Image 10: Bend on the Greta with fine exposures of limestone, further down.



Record Number 970 >>> Image 11: View from below the bend upstream to show the dry limestone bed.



Record Number 970 >>> Image 12: Isolated ancient yew on chert strata forming a vertical riverside cliff



Record Number 970 >>> Image 13: Detail of the thin, horizontally bedded chert strata which overlies the Main Limestone 1km downstream of Gods Bridge.