



ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY

Theme 2. Round Cairns & Round Houses

Fieldwork module 2b

KIRKHAUGH CAIRNS EXCAVATION

PROJECT DESIGN



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Front cover illustration.

The gold 'earring', now considered more likely to have been worn as a hair braid or attached to clothing in some way, discovered by Herbert Maryon during his excavation of Kirkhaugh Cairn 1 in 1935. This is very rare find, and dates from the very earliest phase of metalworking in Britain, about 2,400BC. It is on display in the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne.

General introduction

Altogether Archaeology, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is the North Pennines AONB Partnership's community archaeology project. It enables volunteers to undertake practical archaeological projects with appropriate professional supervision and training. As well as raising the capacity of local groups to undertake research, the project makes a genuine contribution to our understanding of the North Pennines historic environment, thus contributing to future landscape management.

Over an initial 18 month period ending in December 2011, the project attracted 400 volunteers and completed a range of fieldwork modules including survey and excavation of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval sites, and the survey of complex multi-period archaeological landscapes. Details of work completed during the pilot phase can be found on the AONB website.

The current Altogether Archaeology programme runs from September 2012 - September 2015. It involves a range of professional and academic partners, and participation is open to all. Work is arranged according to ten themes, ranging from Early Farming to 20th-Century Industrial Archaeology. Further information, including details of how to register as a volunteer, are available on the AONB website.

Altogether Archaeology Module 2 is entitled 'Round Cairns and Round Houses - the Bronze Age'. It includes the investigation of a range of sites throughout the North Pennines dating from the Bronze Age, from about 2400 - 800BC. The Kirkhaugh cairns were originally excavated by Herbert Maryon in 1935, and the finds are on display in the Great North Museum in Newcastle. The site is best known for the extremely rare type of gold ornament from Cairn 1, often called an 'earring' this is now thought more likely to have been a hair braid. But it is also important because of another find - a carefully shaped stone known as a 'cushion stone', now known to be a kind of anvil used by the very earliest metalworkers for the crafting of gold and copper objects; the grave is thus thought to be that of a very early metal worker (from about 2,400BC) who perhaps died while prospecting for copper in the North Pennines. There is only one other grave in the whole of Britain that includes both a cushion stone and gold ornaments of this type, that of the 'Amesbury Archer' near Stonehenge. The Amesbury Archer is very well known for a number of reasons, not least the fact that analysis of his teeth has proved that his childhood was spent in the Alps; why he came to Stonehenge and was buried there remains a mystery about which there has been much fascinating speculation. Maryon did not recover any human remains during his excavation at Kirkhaugh, but it is thought that a modern excavation may recover further finds and samples that may yet tell us much more about the person buried here.

The Amesbury Archer was excavated by Professor Andrew Fitzpatrick, who has published an extremely impressive book about the burial within its local and European context. The Altogether Archaeology project is most fortunate in having secured the services of Andrew to lead the re-excavation of the Kirkhaugh cairn; there is no-one better qualified to direct this work. Andrew will be assisted by Richard Carlton and Marc Johnston of the Archaeological Practice, Newcastle upon Tyne, who have previously led successful Altogether Archaeology excavations.

In addition to the re-excavation of Cairn 1 at Kirkhaugh, this project will evaluate a newly recognised mound (referred to in this document as 'cairn 3') in the adjacent field to Cairn 1, and will also investigate features in the vicinity of Cairn 1 that recent geophysical survey suggests may be of interest.

The Kirkhaugh cairns are crucially important, if previously under-appreciated, sites in the North Pennines landscape that may legitimately be considered as representing the origins of

the industrial exploitation of the areas mineral resources, leading to Roman and medieval lead and silver mining and eventually to the large scale exploitation of lead in the post-medieval era.

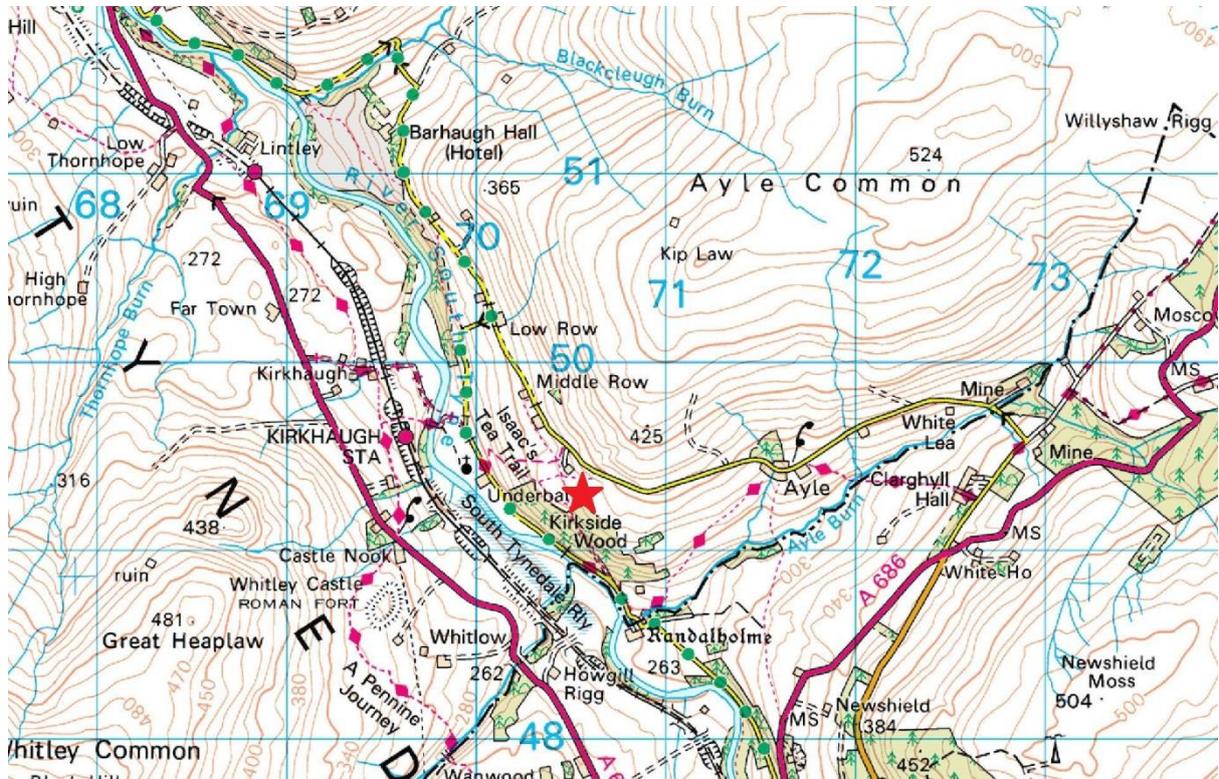


Fig 1. OS map with location of Kirkhaugh Cairn 1 shown as a red star. The site is about 3km north of Alston. (Source: Durham County Council GIS).

1 Introduction to the Kirkhaugh Cairns

- 1.1.1 This document provides the Written Scheme of Investigation for the further excavation of the Bell Beaker (Copper Age) cairn and associated monuments at Kirkhaugh, Northumberland (NY 7055 4930) (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The Bell Beaker cairn (Cairn 1) was identified and excavated in 1935 by Herbert Maryon along with another cairn (Cairn 2) c. 365 m to the south (Maryon 1936). The excavation showed that Cairn 1 covered a single burial dating to the second half of the third millennium BC. The burial was accompanied by a beaker, flint tools and flakes, two stone tools, and a gold ornament. Cairn 2 covered a small stone cist but the grave appears to have been disturbed in modern times. Although no grave goods were found, the type of cist suggests that the grave is likely date to the second millennium BC or Early Bronze Age.
- 1.1.3 It was recognised recently that the two worked stones from Cairn 1 are stone tools for metalworking and that the grave is one of the earliest of a metalworker yet found in Britain (section 4.1 below). As a result a new study of the grave in Cairn 1 and its wider context is being undertaken. The study is a research project by Andrew Fitzpatrick (an Archaeological Consultant and Visiting Professor at Leicester University) in partnership with the Altogether Archaeology project.
- 1.1.4 The research project has five stages;
 1. Reassessment of the finds from the 1935 excavations and their contexts
 2. Analytical Field Survey
 3. Geophysical Surveys
 4. Excavation
 5. Synthesis and Publication
- 1.1.4 Stage 1 was undertaken in 2012 (Fitzpatrick 2012) and Stage 2 (as part of Altogether Archaeology) in 2013 (Oswald and Went 2013). Stage 3 was completed in early July 2014, though the results are not yet ready for inclusion in this document . Stage 4 (the current excavation) will take place on 19-27th July 2014. The synthesis will be completed and submitted for publication in 2015.
- 1.1.5 The Stage 2 Analytical Field Survey was led by Alistair Oswald and Dave Went, with financial support from English Heritage. Stages 3 and 4 are largely funded by the Altogether Archaeology project. Stage 5 is being supported by grants or help in kind by National Museums of Scotland, The Prehistoric Society, The Society of Antiquaries of London, The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle Upon Tyne, The University of Southampton, and The University of Wales' 'Atlantic Europe in the Metal Ages' project.

2 Scope of this Document

- 2.1.1 This Project Design sets out the reasons, strategy and methodology for undertaking the excavation. In format and content it conforms to current best practice including the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008). It is also intended to function as an introduction to the site and the project for all participants

3 Topography and Geology

- 3.1.1 Kirkhaugh lies in the north-west Pennines in the upper reaches of the valley of the South Tyne River. It is 3km north of Alston, in the parish of Knaresdale with Kirkhaugh, within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. At this point the South Tyne flows broadly south to north and the cairns at Kirkhaugh are sited on a small limestone capped terrace or 'bench' a little less than half way up the eastern side of the valley at a height of c. 334m OD. The valley rises above the terrace to the spur of Kip Low which stands at a height of 500m on the western edge of Ayle Common. The terrace is currently under pasture (Fig. 2: LIDAR).
- 3.1.2 Terraces such as the one at Kirkhaugh are a characteristic feature of the North Pennines and were caused by glacial action and the weathering of the alternatively hard and soft Carboniferous beds within the Alston Formation of the Yoredale cyclothems. The limestones and sandstones are more resistant to erosion than the shales and coal seams.

4 Archaeological Background

4.1 The wider context

- 4.1.1 The recent re-identification of the two 'hammerstones' from Cairn 1 as stone tools for working copper and gold provides the key to a new understanding of the grave. It lies on the edge of the Alston ore field. While the ore field is best known as a major source of lead during the 19th century, historical research has shown that copper ores were encountered regularly and some were exploited commercially.
- 4.1.2 Across central and western Europe, the graves of most Copper Age and Early Bronze Age metalworkers are located far away from the sources of metal. Indeed, it is often thought that miners and metalworkers belonged to separate social and possibly cultural groups. The Kirkhaugh burial suggests that at least some metalworkers travelled as prospectors and/or miners to areas in which it was thought that metals might be found.
- 4.1.3 This observation links directly to current research that suggests that the Bell Beaker archaeological culture was introduced rapidly and widely in temperate Europe and Scandinavia by small groups of migrants from c. 2350 cal BC. These groups helped create and maintain their cultural identity through long-distance networks of contact and exchange and the values ascribed to metals played an important part in this (Fitzpatrick 2013). The discovery of the grave of a Bell Beaker metalworker in an orefield far from any other contemporary finds in north England and is therefore of some importance, regionally, nationally and internationally.

4.2 The Local Context

- 4.2.1 When Cairns 1 (Figs 3 & 4) and 2 were first recognised in 1935, very few other Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age sites or finds were known in their vicinity and that

remains the case. The cairns are the earliest monuments currently identified in the upper South Tyne Valley.

- 4.2.2 A small number of certain or possible cairns or barrows were discovered by English Heritage during their recent 'Miner-Farmer Project' survey of Alston Moor. One of the possible cairns lies on the limestone terrace between Cairns 1 and 2 and here it is called 'Possible Cairn 3' (Fig. 5). It is described further in section 6.2 below.
- 4.2.3 In 1978 it was suggested by the Ordnance Survey that a third, much larger, mound some 24m in diameter that lies between Cairns 1 and 2 at NY 7073 492 was also a prehistoric barrow or cairn. The Stage 2 analytical field survey undertaken in 2013 demonstrated that this mound is probably medieval or later in date (Oswald and Went 2013) and accordingly it is not considered further here.

5 Research Aims

- 5.1.1 The principal aim of this excavation is to improve our understanding of the results of the 1935 excavation. The published account of them is problematic in several regards, principally in respect of the burial (Fig. 3) and as no archive or records relating to the excavation have been traced, further fieldwork provides the only way forward.
- 5.1.2 In 1935 neither a burial nor a grave cut were identified but the objects found in the cairn are typical grave goods of the period as are the associations between them. Although it was not stated explicitly, Maryon implied that the body was placed on the ground surface and the stone cairn was then raised over it.
- 5.1.3 A burial placed directly on the ground surface would be quite atypical of the mortuary rituals of Bell Beaker groups. These rituals are now well understood nationally and internationally and it clear that the type of grave structure, the orientation of the body, and the accompanying grave goods were rigidly prescribed according to gender and status. While it is possible that a death in the course of a prospecting or mining expedition might provide the exceptional circumstances in which normally prescribed rituals might be deviated from, this would need to be demonstrated by a modern excavation.
- 5.1.4 In order to assess this, it is necessary to establish whether the grave was an isolated one or whether there were other burials, either in the cairn or associated with it in the form of outlying graves. The detailed research objectives of the excavation are provisionally set out in section 6.2 below, though these may be revised following detailed assessment of geophysical survey results.
- 5.1.5 At present Cairn 1 appears to be an isolated monument which is known only from the upstanding monument. Early Bell Beaker barrows in England and Scotland are sometimes encircled by small, shallow, ring ditches and there are sometimes a small number of secondary burials beyond the barrow. On occasions secondary burials were inserted directly above the primary burial and the reopening of graves as part of secondary burial rites which led to the displacement of the corpse and the accompanying grave goods and the removal of body parts is being recognised increasingly frequently (Fitzpatrick 2011, 201-2).

- 5.1.6 The geophysical survey has suggested the possible presence of a ring ditch around cairn 1; this will be tested by excavation.
- 5.1.7 Although Cairn 2 is thought to be later in date, the nature and date of Possible Cairn 3 is unknown; it will be partially excavated as part of this project.
- 5.1.8 The overall aims of the 2014 excavation are therefore to:
- establish the nature of the burial rite in Cairn 1
 - collect material for scientific analyses from Cairn 1
 - establish the nature and date of any associated features identified by the Geophysical Survey
 - establish the nature and date of possible Cairn 3 and any associated features.
- 5.1.9 It is not proposed to undertake any work on Cairn 2 in the current excavation.

6 The Cairns

6.1 *Cairn 1*

- 6.1.1 Maryon gave the size of Cairn 1, which he called a barrow, as 'about 22 feet' (6.7m) and his very small-scale location plan showed it as being circular. However, as it survives today the mound is oval in shape (Fig. 4). It is oriented north-west to south-east, and this orientation echoing of both the nearby escarpment edge and, perhaps importantly, the orientation of a natural ridge of limestone which Maryon found that the mound was built on. The mound is 11 m long and 5.6 m wide, which is approximately the same width as the underlying ridge. Maryon's excavation showed that approximately half of the mound's apparent 0.9 m height was due to the rising up of the underlying ridge, while the stone cairn, as surviving, was only *c.* 0.5 m high.
- 6.1.2 The Stage 2 Analytical Field Survey demonstrated that the mound has been damaged by medieval or later cultivation (Fig. 4). Traces of cultivation can be shown to overlie the southern part of the mound and the longer, eastern and western, sides have been cut into by ploughing. This truncation contributes to the oval plan of the mound but it is possible that the mound was originally oval, using the shape of the underlying limestone ridge, rather than circular.
- 6.1.3 The survey also identified the location of Maryon's backfilled excavation, and possibly one of the spoil heaps.

6.2 *Possible Cairn 3*

- 6.2.1 Possible Cairn 3 is located at NY 7073 492 and is approximately circular, 10m in diameter with a maximum height of 0.3 m (Fig. 5). Though its diameter is slightly greater, on average, than Cairns 1 and 2, this difference can be accounted for by the effects of the occasional modern ploughing. The location of this mound also bears comparison with the other two, some 15 m back from the edge of the escarpment, with similar consequences for its potential view shed.

7 Excavation objectives

7.1 Cairn 1

- 7.1.1 Although there are no records of Maryon's excavation, it is evident from his report and the survey of the cairn that he excavated a single trench oriented south-east to north-east across the centre of it. The trench appears to have cut an area without stones, possibly a grave chamber which (on the basis of a likely length: width ratio) is likely to have been aligned broadly north-south.
- 7.1.2 No grave cut or burial was found but it was noted that 'near the centre of the barrow, a number of patches of a greasy, greyish clay were observed on the rock surface. These were in a position that a body might have occupied, but beyond this nothing can be affirmed' (Maryon 1936, 210).
- 7.1.3 All the grave goods were found within an area *c.* 1 m in diameter in the centre of the cairn though the beaker is the only one whose individual location is known. The objects were described as lying 'within a few inches of the rock surface.' A few objects of medieval and later date were also found.
- 7.1.4 Although not stated explicitly, this evidence appears to have been interpreted as indicating that the burial was made on or immediately above the old ground surface and that the cairn was raised over it.
- 7.1.5 As noted above, no burial of this type has been recorded in any of the early Bell Beaker burials subsequently excavated in Britain. While many early Bell Beaker graves across Europe have wooden chambers, these were placed in pits and were not free-standing structures.
- 7.1.6 The absence of any trace of a burial is also puzzling. Although Maryon noted some waterlogging, even though the excavation was undertaken in late summer, the underlying rock is limestone which is normally conducive to the preservation of bone.

7.2 Cairn 1: Detailed Excavation Objectives

- 7.2.1 As many earlier 20th century excavation trenches were relatively narrow, it is possible that if there was a grave or timber structures not all of it was excavated in 1935.
- 7.2.2 On the assumptions that some undisturbed contexts do survive and that some finds may be present in the backfill of the 1935 excavations, the specific objectives of the re-excavation are to:
- establish the nature and date of any associated features identified in the Stage 3 Geophysical Surveys
 - to identify the location and extent of Maryon's excavations in 1935
 - establish if there are any buried soils beneath the cairn
 - establish if a grave was cut in the natural subsoil
 - establish if a grave chamber was built on the natural subsoil
 - establish if the (presumed) grave was covered by an earthen mound to which the stone cairn was added
 - establish how the cairn was built
 - establish if any secondary burials were inserted into the cairn
 - establish if the (presumed) grave was reopened and if so, when

- identify and recover any burials and human remains
- recover materials suitable for radiocarbon dating
- recover samples suitable for stable isotope analysis
- recover any further finds

7.3 *Possible Cairn 3*

- 7.3.1 At this stage the objectives of the excavation of Possible Cairn 3 remain those set out in sections 5.1.7-8 above; to establish the nature and date of the possible cairn.

8 Methods Statement

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The excavation will be carried out in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008).

- 8.1.2 The excavation will be directed by professional archaeologists and undertaken by Altogether Archaeology volunteers.

8.2 Excavation methods

- 8.2.1 The excavation areas will be defined by Netlon fencing to prevent animals from entering the area when the site is unattended. The depth of the excavations is not expected to exceed 1 m.

- 8.2.2 The excavation areas will be tied in to the survey points that were established in 2013 and left *in situ* and used by the Stage 3 Geophysical Survey.

- 8.2.3 All excavation will be by hand. Turf and soil cover will be stored on site and after the completion of the excavation the shape of the Cairn 1 will be recreated using the excavated materials and then re-turfed, and Possible Cairn 3 will also be backfilled with the excavated materials and then re-turfed.

- 8.2.4 All archaeological deposits will be recorded using the Archaeological Practice's *pro forma* recording system, as used in previous Altogether Archaeology excavations.

- 8.2.5 The cairns will be excavated and recorded in 0.2 m levels. If it is practicable (i.e. the matrix not too stony) the 1935 excavation backfill from Cairn 1 will be excavated in 0.1 m spits. All areas of any graves found will be excavated in 0.1 m spits and the entire contents retained for sieving.

- 8.2.6 A complete drawn record of all archaeological features and deposits will be compiled. This will include both plans made at 0.2 m levels and drawn at 1:20, and sections and grave plan(s) at 1:10. Any animal burrows will be recorded on separate plans. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with the OD heights.

8.2.7 Finds will be three-dimensionally recorded with the exception of any recovered from the backfill of the 1935 excavations in Cairn 1.

8.2.8 A full photographic record will be maintained using black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital photography will be used for all significant features, finds, deposits and general site working. The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features and finds excavated and the Site as a whole.

8.3 Excavation Stages

Cairn 1

8.3.1 The excavation will be undertaken in the following stages;

- the condition of the mound will be checked against the 2013 survey and any differences recorded
- the surface of the mound will be scanned with a metal detector and the location of any anomalies recorded
- the turf covering of the mound will be removed and stored so that it can be re-used at the end of the excavation
- the surface of the cairn will be cleaned and planned
- the backfill of the 1935 excavation will be removed and both sections of the trench will be recorded. All of the soil from the backfill will be scanned with a metal detector and then sieved to recover any additional artefacts
- the cairn will be then be fully excavated stratigraphically in opposing quadrants using the 1935 trench as the baseline. The first two quadrants to be excavated will be the south-west and the north-eastern ones
- the previous shape of the cairn will then be reconstituted using the excavated materials and re-turfed

Possible cairn 3

8.3.2 A similar series of stages will be followed for this possible cairn;

- the condition of the mound will be checked against the 2013 survey and any differences recorded
- the surface of the mound will be scanned with a metal detector and the location of any anomalies recorded
- the turf covering of the mound will be removed and stored so that it can be re-used at the end of the excavation
- the surface of the cairn will be cleaned and planned
- the cairn will be then be excavated stratigraphically in opposing quadrants. The first two quadrants to be excavated will again be the south-west and the north-eastern ones
- if any graves are identified they will be fully exposed before recording; decisions regarding the extent to which any such finds should be excavated will be made on site.
- the previous shape of the cairn will then be reconstituted using the excavated materials and re-turfed

9 Finds, Environmental Sampling and human remains

9.1 Finds

- 9.1.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those considered to be of no intrinsic interest from features or deposits of obviously modern date which are not directly associated with the cairns. However, in such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will still be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the features or deposits.
- 9.1.2 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted, marked (as necessary), identified, and bagged or boxed in suitable containers. This work will be undertaken on Site.
- 9.1.3 Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001).
- 9.1.4 Any prehistoric metalwork and all metalwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment.
- 9.1.5 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site remain the property of the landowner. They will be suitably bagged, boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no. 2* (UKIC 1993) and, after any necessary conservation (and subject to agreement with the landowner), they will be deposited with the Great North Museum as part of the project archive on the completion of the reporting.

9.2 Treasure

- 9.2.1 If material is recovered that is considered to be covered by the Treasure Act of 1996 all the necessary information required by the Act (i.e. finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 24 hours. The Portable Antiquities Scheme will also be advised.

9.3 Environmental Sampling

- 9.3.1 Multiple samples will be taken from any buried ground surfaces that survive beneath the cairn for pollen and soil micromorphology.
- 9.3.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils and small animal bones will be taken from appropriate, well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological contexts. Samples will be 40 litres or 100 % of smaller contexts.
- 9.3.3 The pollen and soil samples and the residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive.

9.4 Human Remains

- 9.4.1 All remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site subject to compliance with the appropriate legislation and guidance licence. A Ministry of Justice Licence for the removal of human remains will be required should it be considered necessary.

- 9.4.2 All excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

10 Report

- 10.1.1 A short interim report will be prepared within two months of the completion of the excavations and it, or suitably edited versions of it, will be submitted to appropriate archaeological journals and newsletters. These will as a minimum include *Archaeology in Northumberland* and *PAST*, the newsletter of the Prehistoric Society, which is one of the project sponsors. The interim report will also be published on the AONB website.
- 10.1.2 An OASIS form will also be completed and submitted.
- 10.1.3 Detailed analysis will be undertaken of any human remains that are recovered, including, where appropriate, radiocarbon dating and isotope analysis. All finds will be studied by appropriate experts and materials analyses will be undertaken of the existing and any new finds. The environmental samples will be assessed and where appropriate analysed. The funding for these analyses and the necessary illustration is being met by the project sponsors listed in section 1.1.5 above to whom successful grant applications have already been made or who have offered help in kind.
- 10.1.3 The detailed results of the excavations will be integrated with the existing Stage 1 and 2 reports (Fitzpatrick 2012; Oswald and Went 2013) in a report that will meet the overall objective of the project to provide a comprehensive new study of the Kirkhaugh burial. This will be a journal article that will be submitted to a leading archaeological journal.

11 Archive

- 11.1.1 On completion of the project a cross-referenced and internally consistent project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (IfA 2009).
- 11.1.2 The Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which holds the finds from the 1935 excavation has already agreed to accept the project archive and a copy of the digital archive will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

12. Project team

8.1 In accordance with standard Altogether Archaeology practice, this project will be overseen by a Project Team, as follows:

Paul Frodsham	North Pennines AONB Partnership Historic Environment Officer and Altogether Archaeology Project Manager	Overall project management/coordination
Andrew Fitzpatrick	Professor of Archaeology, University of Durham	Excavation Director
Richard Carlton	The Archaeological Practice, Newcastle upon Tyne.	Excavation Director
Marc Johnstone	The Archaeological Practice, Newcastle upon Tyne.	Excavation Supervisor
Rob Young	Archaeological Advisor, English Heritage North-East.	General liaison with English Heritage

8.2 Overall project management will be by Paul Frodsham, assisted if appropriate by other members of the North Pennines AONB Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG). The HEWG is the designated advisory group for the whole of the *Altogether Archaeology* project; it includes the Northumberland County Archaeologist and English Heritage North-East Region Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Paul Frodsham will be responsible for co-ordinating volunteer involvement in the project, and for preparatory work including liaison with the landowner and the provision of site facilities.

8.3 The excavation is being co-directed by Andrew Fitzpatrick and Richard Carlton, assisted by Marc Johnstone. Richard and Marc are responsible for the provision of all equipment, and for the provision of on-site training to volunteers.

8.4 Fieldwork will be undertaken by Altogether Archaeology volunteers with training and supervision provided by professional staff from The Archaeological Practice, who have extensive experience working on comparable projects with volunteers. It is expected that Paul Frodsham will also be on site for much of the time, but his role will be to assist the fieldwork directors rather than to direct the fieldwork himself. Archaeological Practice staff and Andrew Fitzpatrick will be jointly responsible for the production of the project report. Paul Frodsham will produce a risk assessment, and will be responsible for health and safety on site throughout fieldwork.

8.5 The *Altogether Archaeology* project has a pool of some 550 volunteers, of whom about 60 are expected to participate actively in this module. Although there

must be some flexibility with regard to volunteer involvement, up to 20 volunteers are expected on site each day. Paul Frodsham will draw up a rota showing which volunteers expect to be on site each day, and fieldwork can then be planned accordingly. If the module is oversubscribed then it will be necessary to ration attendance to perhaps 2 or 3 days per volunteer. Some volunteers are more experienced excavators than others, but all will receive an appropriate level of training and supervision. Experience gained here at Kirkhaugh should then be of value to future projects.

13. Communications

9.1 Paul Frodsham maintains a volunteer database of all *Altogether Archaeology* volunteers, and information about the project will generally be disseminated by email or telephone using contact details contained within this database. For ease of communication, any local people wishing to take part in the project who have not registered with the *Altogether Archaeology* project will be asked to do so, at least temporarily. All communication with volunteers will then be via the *Altogether Archaeology* volunteer database.

9.2 Paul Frodsham, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Richard Carlton and other project staff will be in daily contact during the fieldwork phase, and will communicate as necessary by email, telephone and face to face meetings as necessary during project planning and post-excavation phases.

9.3 The North Pennines AONB Historic Environment Working Group (the advisory group for the *Altogether Archaeology* project) meets quarterly. A draft report on the results of this project will be presented by Paul Frodsham for discussion at the first meeting following completion of the project.

14. Stages, Tasks and Timetable

This project is divided into three stages and 16 tasks as shown in the table below.

Fieldwork is planned to extend over nine days from Saturday 19th July through until Sunday 27th July 2014.

STAGE or Task No.	STAGE/Task	Person(s) responsible	Dates (all 2014)
S 1	PREPARATION		
T 1.1	Finalising of MORPHE compliant project design and EH/HEWG approval.	AF/PF/RV	Early July
T 1.2	Complete geophysical survey and obtain report from Durham Univ.	PF	Early July
T 1.3	Finalise arrangements with landowner re access, parking etc.	PF	16 July

T 1.4	Agree health & safety provision and complete risk assessment.	PF	18 July
T 1.5	Put project live on AA sector of AONB website, inviting volunteers to register.	PF	11 July
T 1.6	Closing date for volunteer registration	PF	16 July
T 1.7	Agree volunteer participation rota - inform volunteers.	PF	17 July
T 1.8	Organise on-site facilities (tent/portaloo)	PF/RC	18 July
S 2	FIELDWORK		
T 2.1	Site set-up	Volunteers/AF/RC/PF	19 July (10am)
T 2.2	Fieldwork	Volunteers/AF/RC/PF	19-27 July
S 3	REPORT, ARCHIVE & PUBLICITY		
T 3.1	Production of interim project report	AF/RC	Sept
T 3.2	Presentation of interim report to HEWG	PF	Oct
	Interim report placed on AONB website.	PF	Oct
T 3.3	Completion of post-ex, production of final report for publication, deposition of archive. Dissemination of final report to HER/OASIS/AONB website.	AF/RC	2015
T 3.4	Link to final project report placed on AONB website.	PF	2015
T 3.5	Contribution to Altogether Archaeology annual public conference.	AF/RC/PF	tbc

AF = Andrew Fitzpatrick

RC = Richard Carlton (or Marc Johnstone) (Archaeological Practice Ltd).

PF = Paul Frodsham (North Pennines AONB Partnership)

RY = Rob Young (English Heritage)

15. Site access and on-site facilities

Please note that the main parking area for this project is the roadside verge adjacent to Randalholme Farm, and that there is a kilometre-long uphill walk from here to the site. There is very limited parking on the roadside above the site, much of which will be required for the site van. Parking is also available in a field adjacent to site, but the access to this is steep and the field is very uneven; volunteers with 4WD vehicles may wish to use this, but it must be at the individual driver's own risk. There is also some space on the road verge above the site, but this is also very uneven and anyone who opts to park here must do so at their own risk. Further details of parking arrangements will be circulated to all participants prior to the commencement of fieldwork; the key thing to note for now, when decided whether or not to register for this project, is that the recommended parking area will necessitate a c15 minute uphill walk to site.

There are no facilities of any kind anywhere near the site, but it is proposed to provide an on-site tent/marquee and portaloos with running water for hand-washing. These arrangements will be finalised and full details circulated to all participants prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

16. Health & Safety and Insurance

15.1 Full consideration will be given to matters of health and safety throughout this project. All work will be undertaken in accordance with the 1974 *Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments, the 2007 *Construction Design and Management Regulations*, and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual (2007).

15.2 In accordance with standard Altogether Archaeology practice, all work will be subject to the standard AA Risk Assessment and also to a specific risk assessment, covering all real and potential hazards associated with this particular site. A comprehensive health and safety induction will be given to all volunteers at project start-up, and all will be required to read a written statement on health and safety which will be kept on site and which all volunteers partaking in the project will be required to sign, stating that they have read and understood it and that they will abide by its terms.

15.3 Paul Frodsham will ensure that at least one qualified First-Aider and appropriate first aid supplies are on site at all times while fieldwork is in progress. Staff members will be supplied with appropriate safety clothing and equipment, and advice as to appropriate clothing and equipment will be provided to volunteers.

15.4 Given the nature and location of the site, welfare facilities will be minimal. Some shelter will be available in the form of a large tent/marquee, and portaloos with running water for hand washing will be provided. Parking and access arrangements are discussed elsewhere in this document. Final details will be circulated to all participants in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

15.5 All aspects of the Altogether Archaeology project are covered by Durham County Council's comprehensive insurance policy. In addition, Archaeological Practice Ltd staff are covered by their own company's policies.

17 References

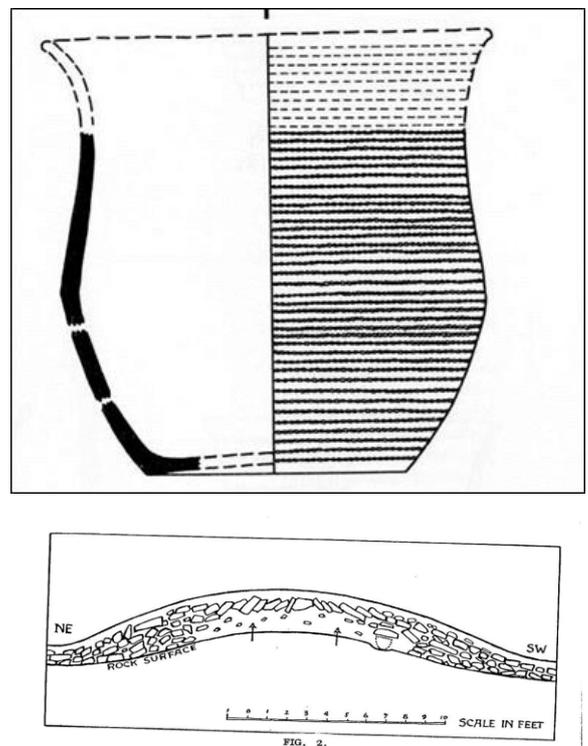
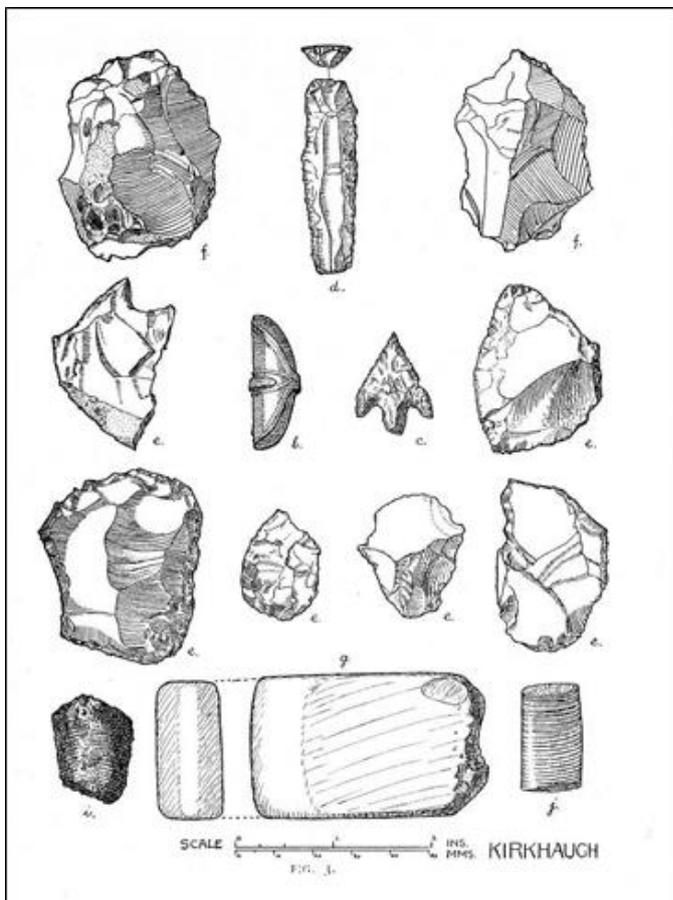
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Fig. 2. LIDAR image showing the Kirkhaugh Cairns within their local landscape setting.



Fig. 3. Above: Kirkhaugh Cairn 1 from the north-east. Below: Finds from Maryon's 1935 excavations of cairn 1, and his sketch section through the cairn.



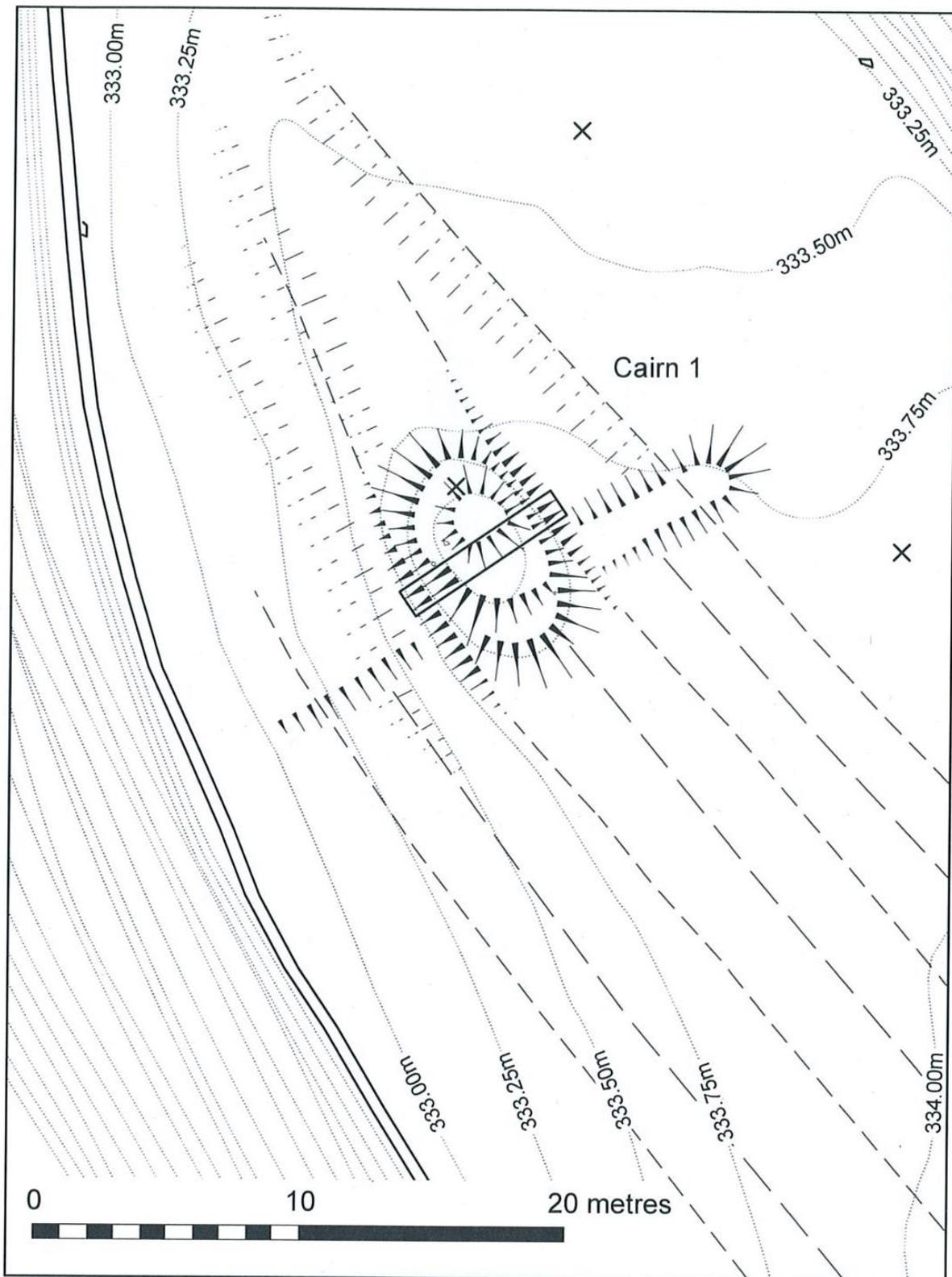


Fig 4. Survey of Cairn 1 produced by Altogether Archaeology volunteers, supervised by Al Oswald, in 2013. The rectangle overlying the cairn is the presumed location of Maryon's excavation trench.

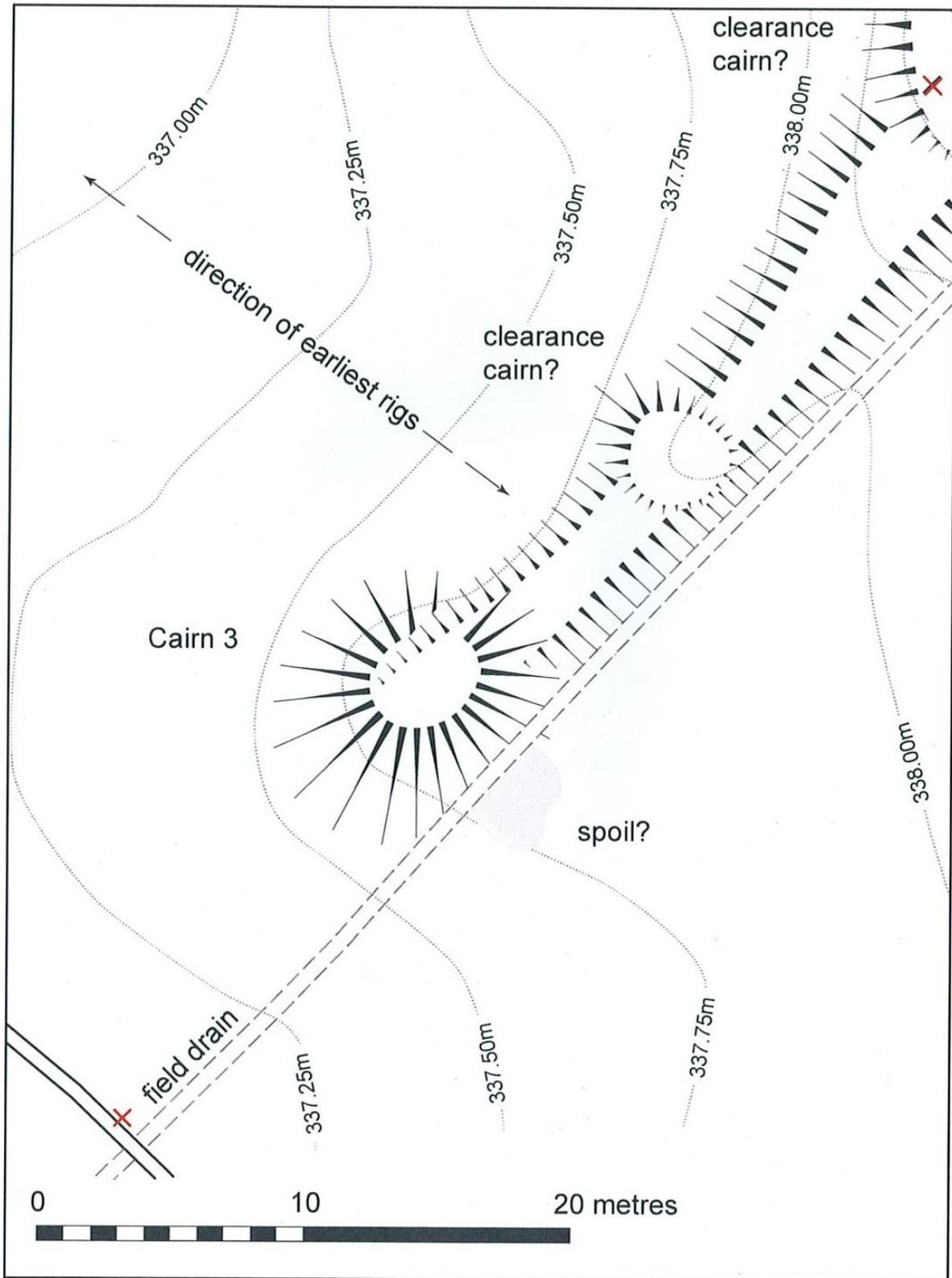


Fig 5. Survey of Possible cairn 3 produced by Altogether Archaeology volunteers, supervised by Al Oswald, in 2013.