

Beyond the Wall : Edges Green Project



Initial Feedback on Cleughfoot Level 3 Survey Oct 22nd – 28th 2016

A full report of the survey will be presented later.

24 hardy volunteers braved some challenging weather conditions to take part in the Level 3 detailed measurement survey on Cleughfoot Farm. Despite some difficult conditions, together we managed to complete all of the objectives that we had set for the survey.

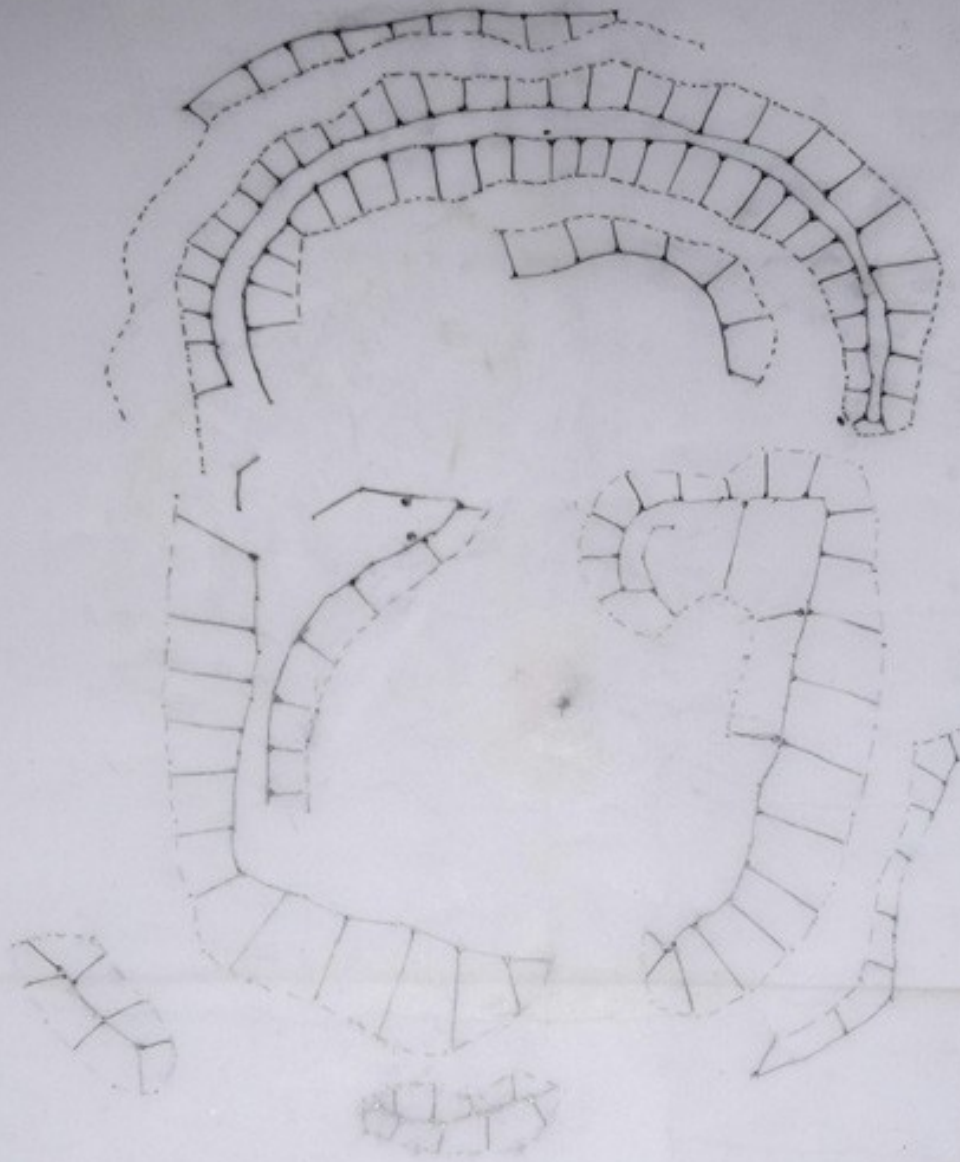
1. 'Dunsloe' enclosure/platform
2. 'Dunsloe' shieling structure
3. Ventners Hall Northern Ring Ditches
4. Ventners Hall Southern Ring Ditches
5. Several small cairns.
6. Full recording to Newcastle University CARE Project and England's Rock Art database criteria of newly discovered rock art stone, plus a rubbing of the said stone.
7. Roman Aqueduct route.

For 3 of the 7 survey days Pete Schofield of Oxford Archaeology North led the survey, with two of his colleagues assisting for a couple of days.

1. 'Dunsloe' enclosure/platform



Hand shearing of soft rush reeds continues at 'Dunsloe' enclosure/platform whilst theodolite team wait for the rain to stop.



'Dunsloe' Platform/ Enclosure

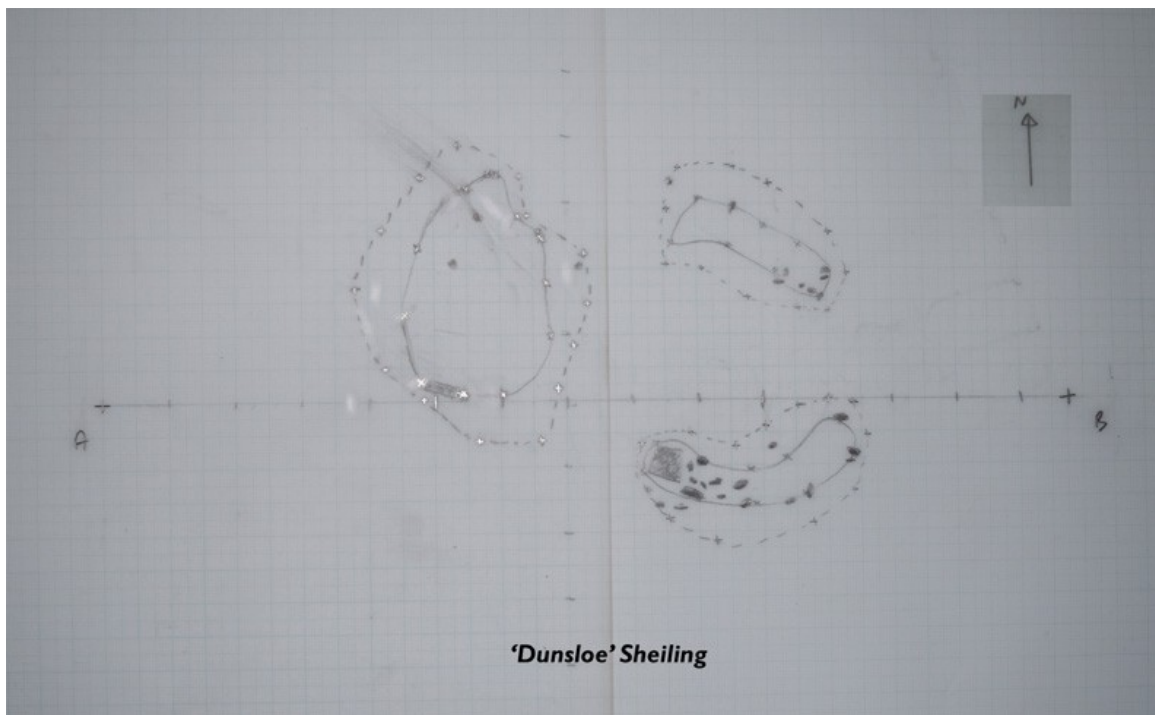


Hachuring the plan drawing of 'Dunsloe' enclosure/platform

This site was identified by Tim Gates (20040) during his aerial photographic survey for Northumberland National Park. It had been depicted as an enclosure by Maclauchlan (1857) as 'Dunsloe?' but is not shown on the 1866 OS 6" map. Its function and period remain a matter of speculation. Our hope is that our detailed plan drawing and partial clearance of vegetation that obscured part of the site may provide a basis for professional archaeologists to consider potential interpretations of the site. Further information will be provided in our final report.

2. 'Dunsloe' Shieling structure.

The visible remains of this structure about 100m south of the larger platform/enclosure structure is suggestive of a double-celled shieling structure, with the eastern cell possibly having served as an animal byre.



3. Ventners Hall Northern Ring Ditches.

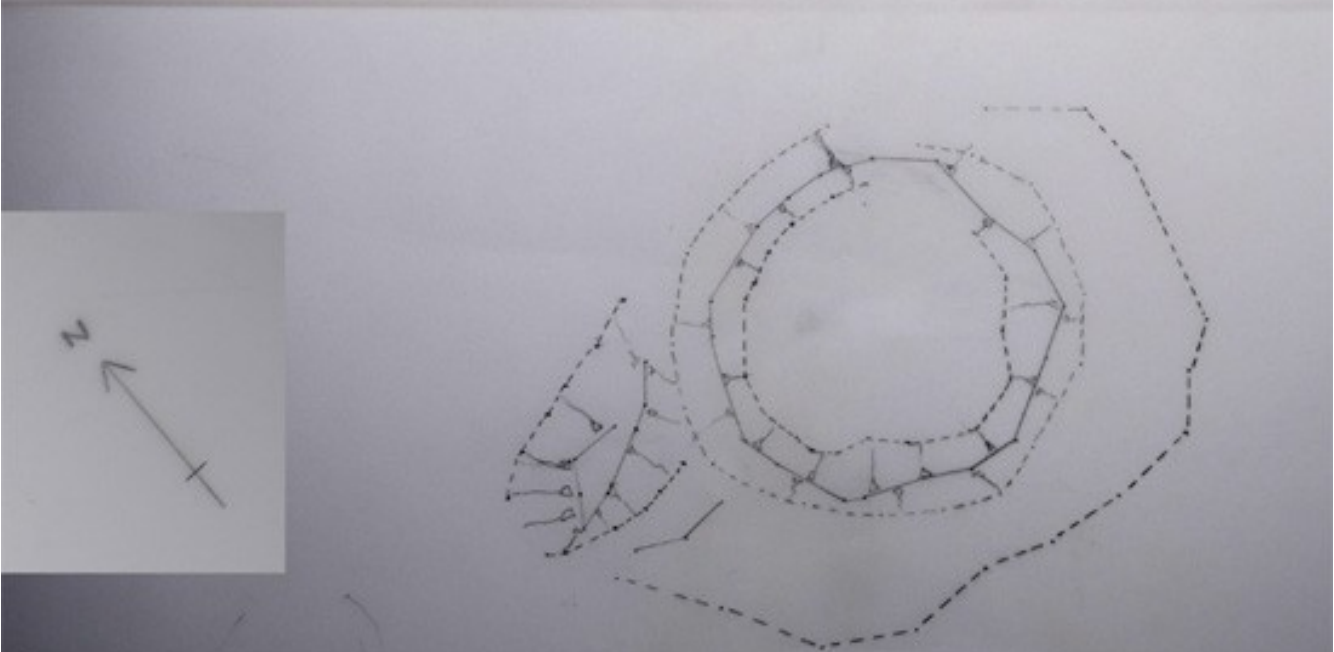
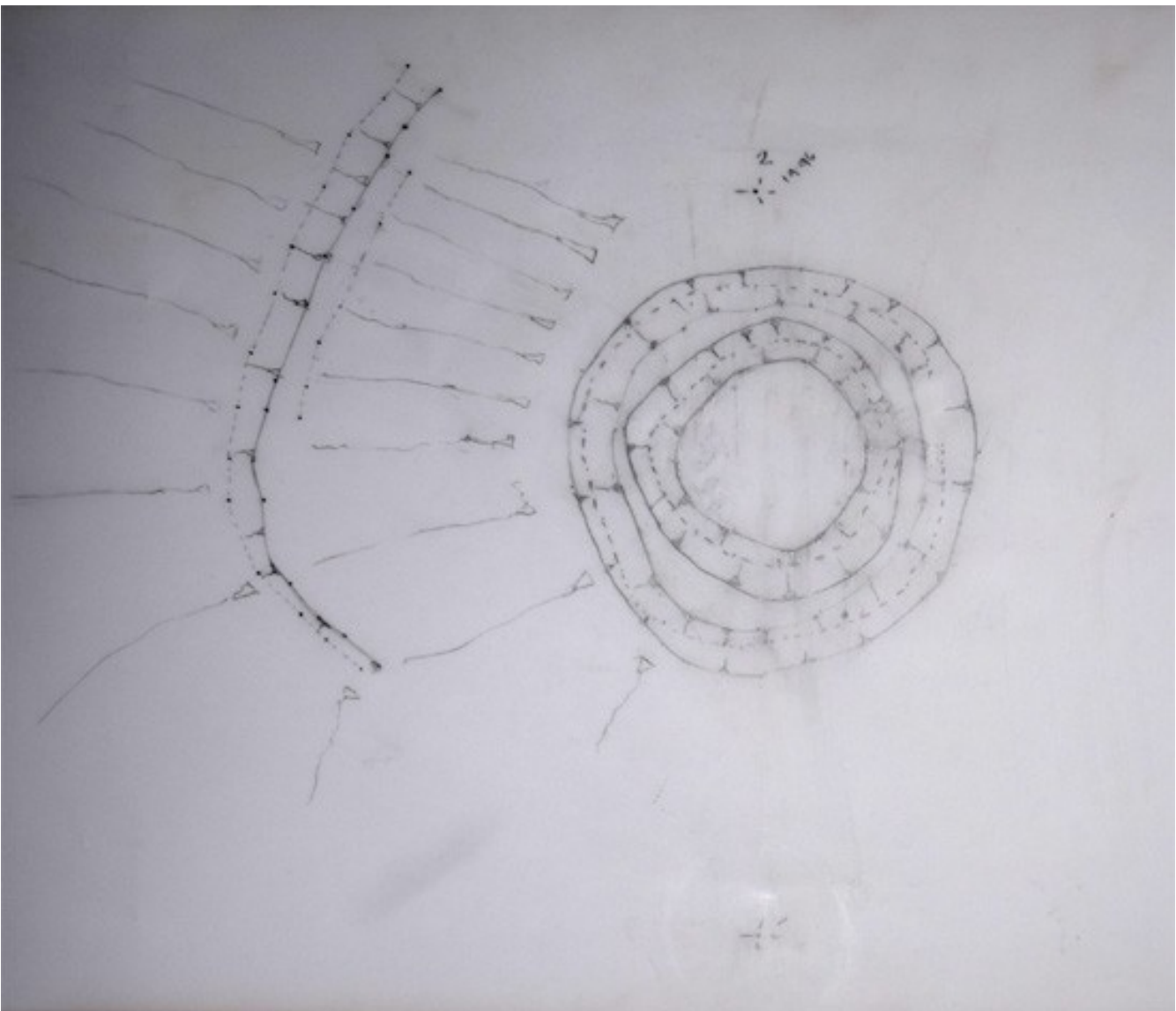
There are two pairs of ring ditches, remains of circular timber-built structures, at Ventners Hall. At both sites there are extensive remains of cord rig, one metre wide remains from hand ploughing of probable prehistoric date. At the northern site we identified and recorded a possibly associated length of linear bank.



Pete checks the flagging out of the ring ditch



Hachuring the drawing of the northern ring ditches



Ventners Hall N ring ditches

4. Venters Hall Southern Ring Ditches.

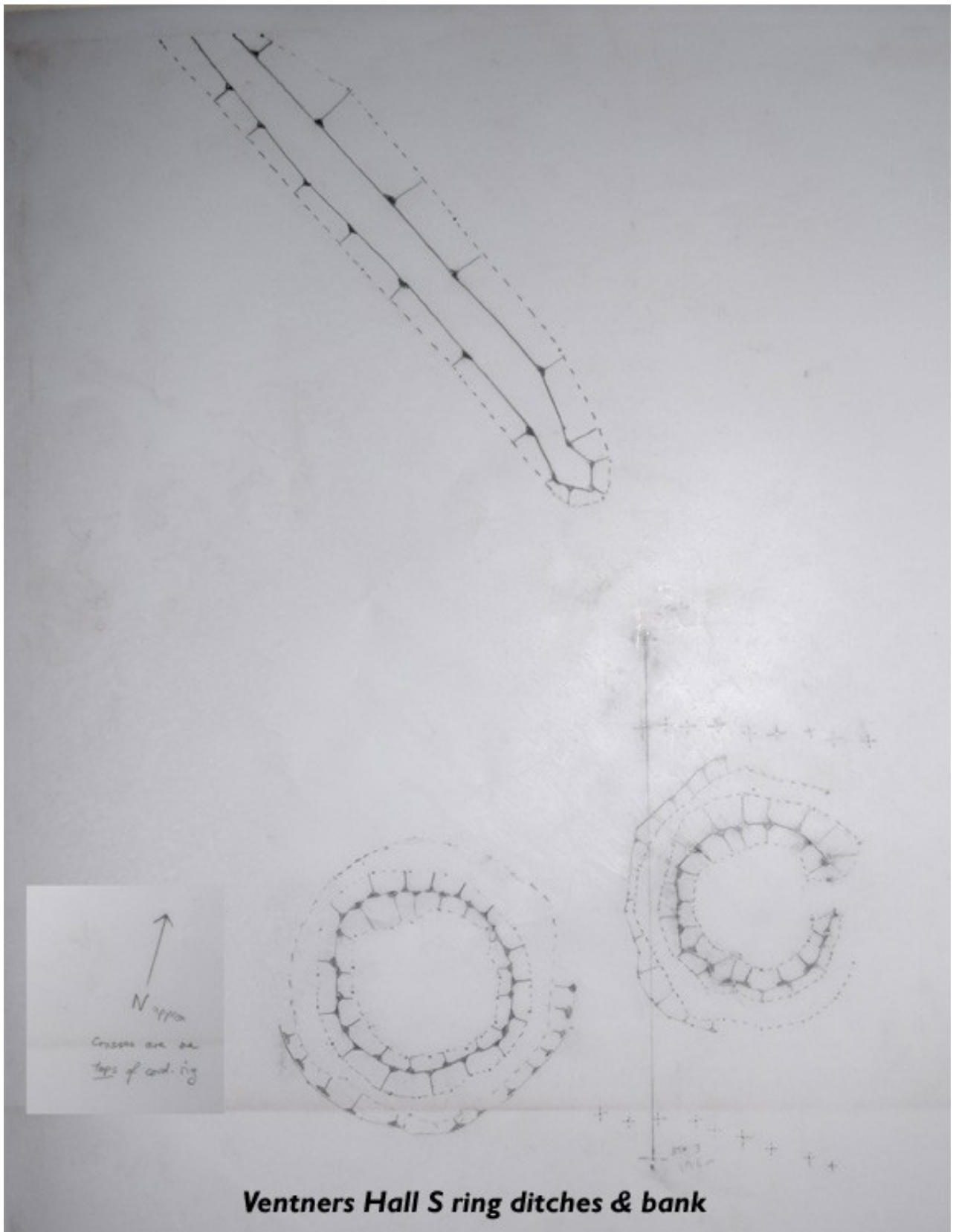
At the southern site the cord rig is more visible. Interestingly it overlies the eastern ring ditch structure, but not the western one. It remains to be determined whether the length of linear bank just to the north is also overlain by cord rig. The scheduled drone aerial photography may resolve this question and possibly clarify the relationship between the cord rig and the ring ditches.



After flagging is completed Pete guides volunteers on using the theodolite.

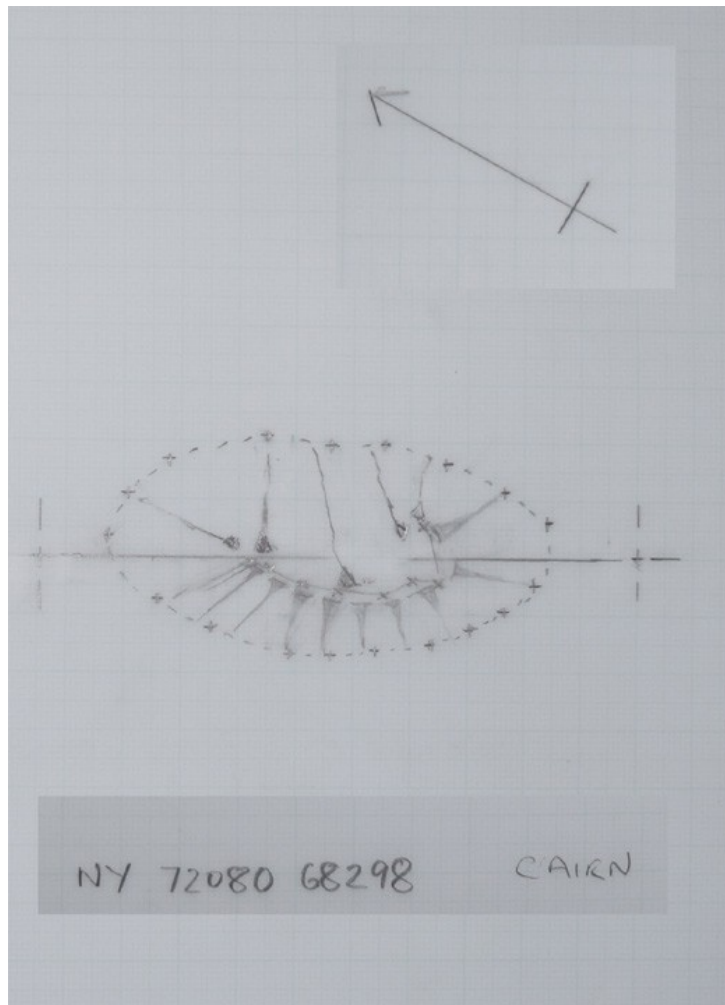


Pressing on before the next rain shower.



Ventners Hall S ring ditches & bank

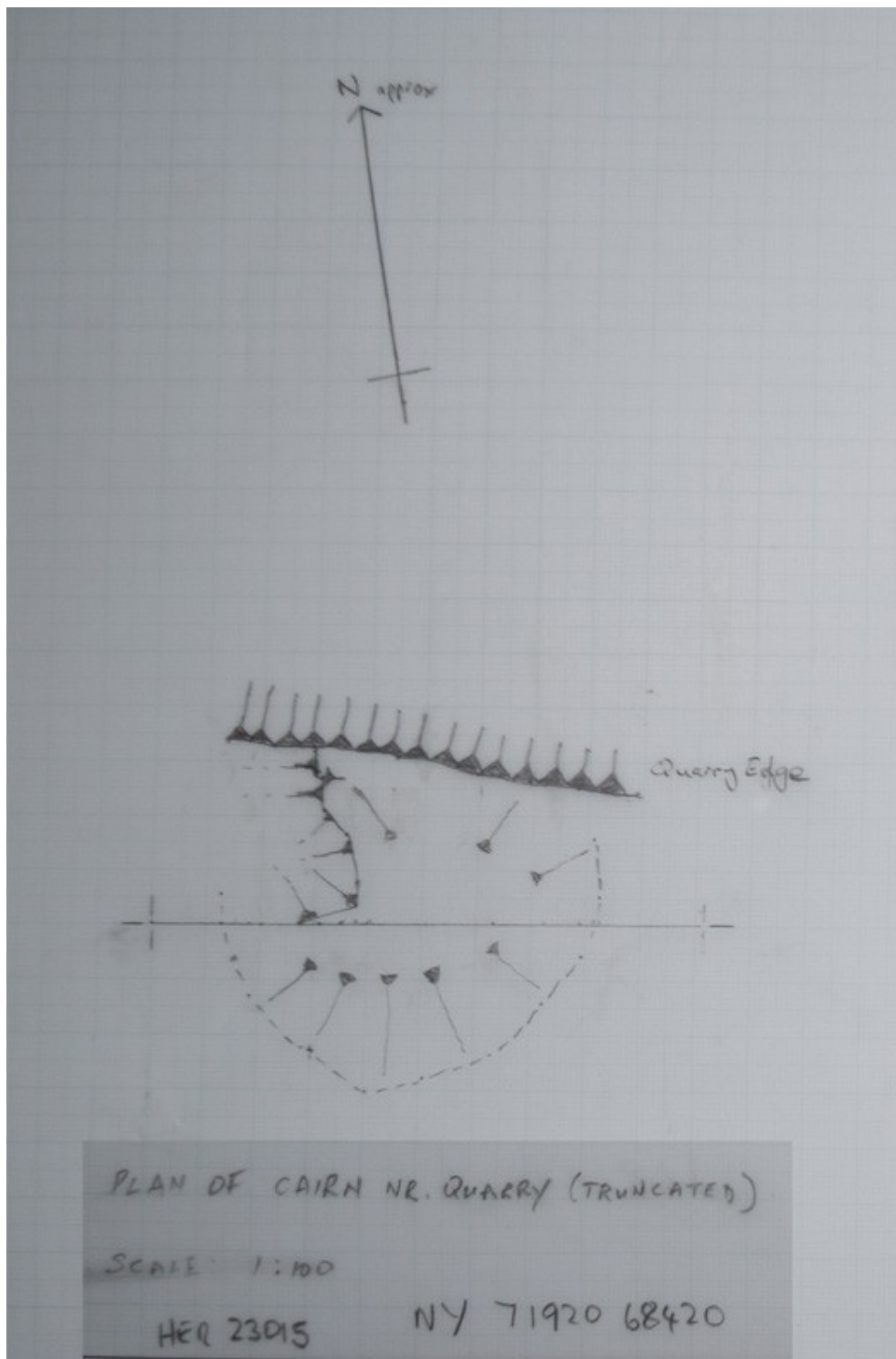
5. Small cairns.



Small cairn north-west of the southern ring ditches



Setting up for 'tape and offset' measurement of the truncated cairn



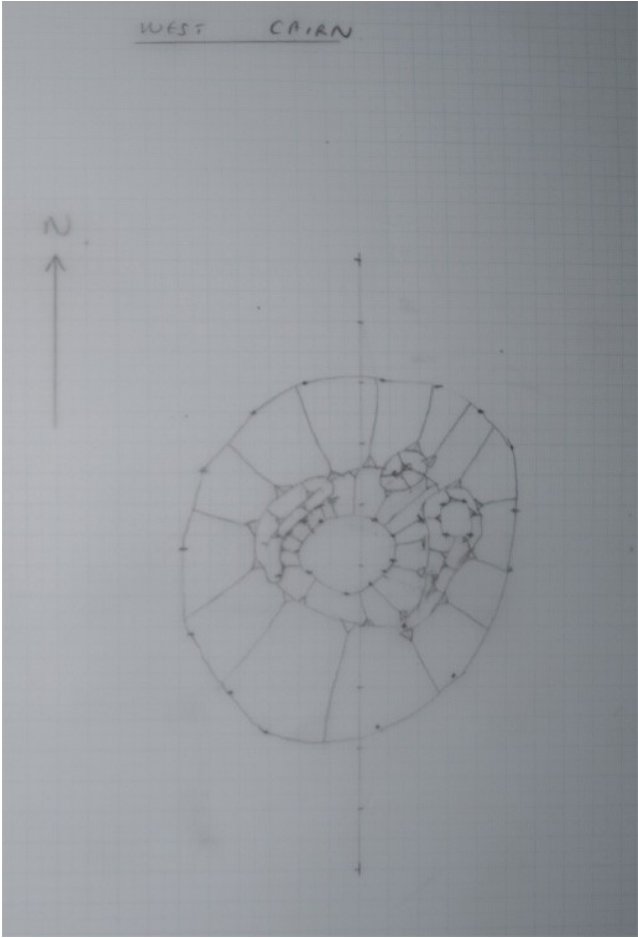
Truncated cairn beside quarry

At this stage it is not possible to determine from examination of the remaining structures whether these cairns had a burial function or are clearance cairns.

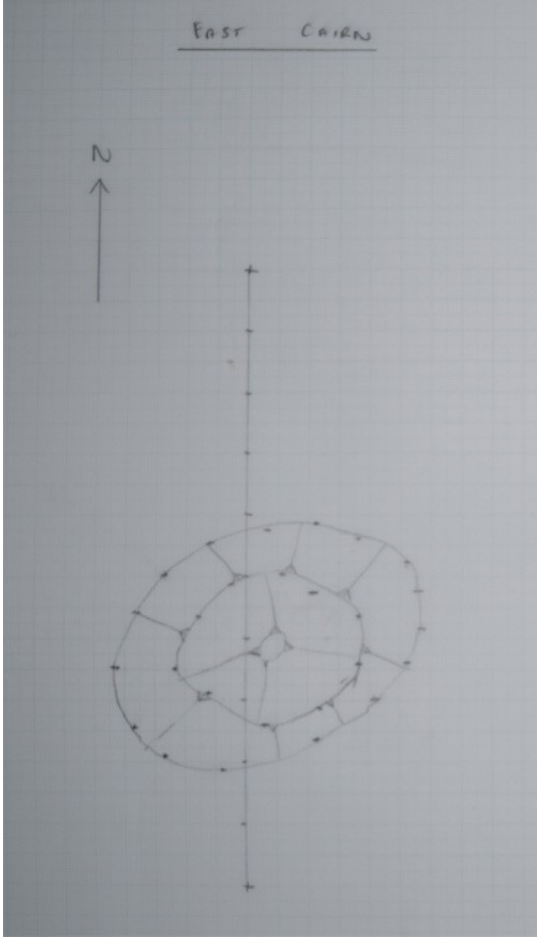
There are also two similar sized and shaped cairns on the low ridge to the west. The area in which these two cairns lie does not show signs of clearance, in contrast to the areas near the two cairns recorded above. There is no visible evidence of a cairnfield, often associated with clearance.

The fact there is the only cup-marked stone found on either Cleughfoot or Edges Green Farms, or currently known elsewhere in the vicinity, may lend some support to the

speculation that this pair of cairns may have had a burial function, given the association between rock art and prehistoric burials found at many other locations in Northumberland.



West cairn (robbed)



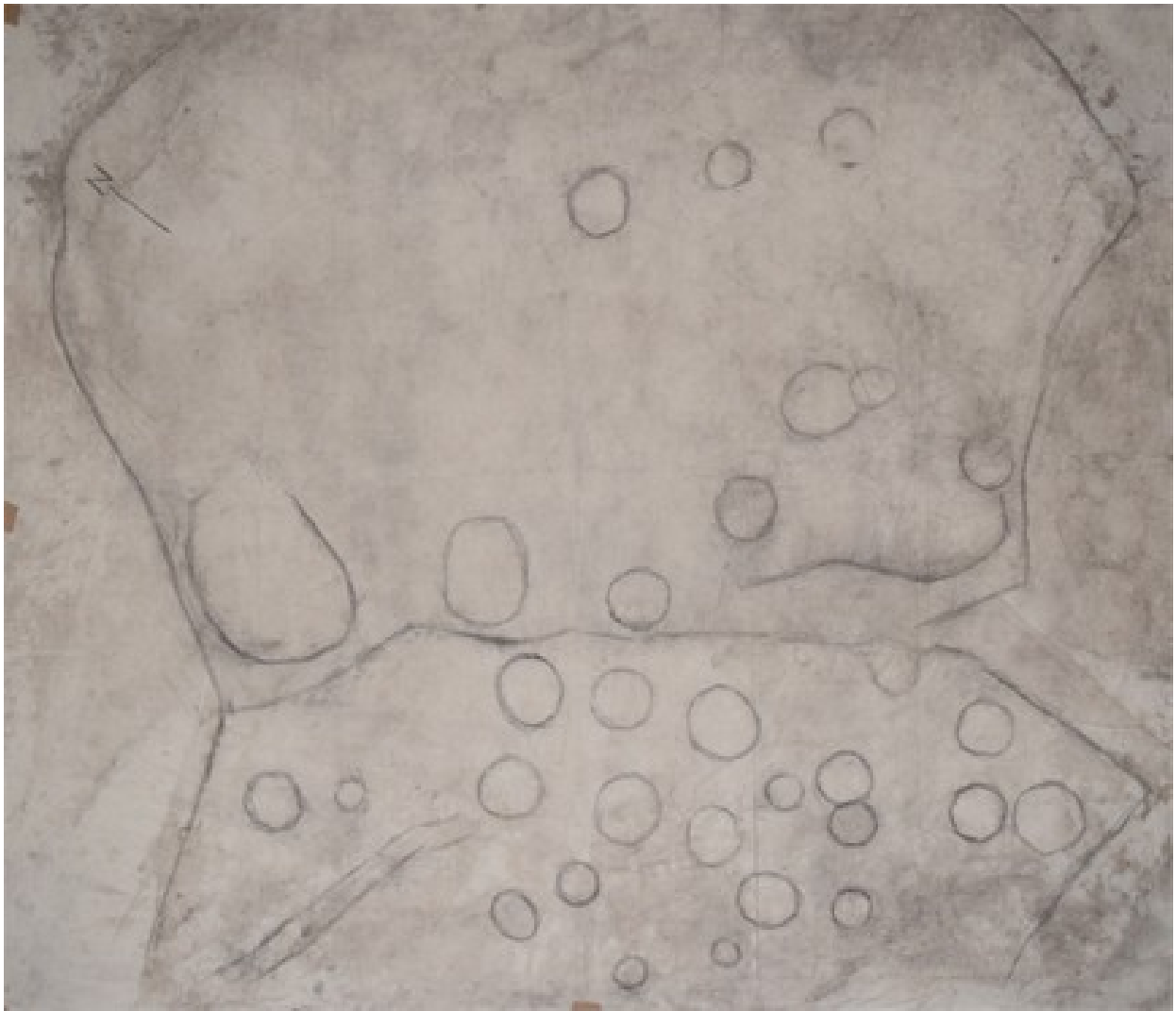
East cairn

6. Rock Art



Newly discovered rock art boulder.

Using the rubbing method taught by Stan Beckensall, who is President of our group, Anne, assisted by Lorraine, managed to complete a rubbing of the stone despite the heavy rain. For the first time she used calico cloth rather than paper. In due course she will do a pen and ink drawing of the stone based upon this rubbing.



Anne Bowyer's rubbing of the Cleughfoot stone.

7. Roman Aqueduct.

The aqueduct is 11km long serving Great Chesters Roman fort on Hadrians wall with some 3km of the route passing through the survey area of Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms. Our Level 1 surveys identified that the aqueduct was "missing" along a significant proportion of the survey area despite it having a published route shown on OS maps. We therefore decided as part of the Level 3 work to investigate why along this 3km length. Some four separate reasons have provisionally been identified which contribute to its apparent absence along the published route. These are:

- a. Ploughed out through subsequent land uses
- b. Route misinterpreted by previous surveyors
- c. Route mis-surveyed by earlier surveyors with aqueduct visible on different alignment.
- d. Aqueduct not constructed in specific locations

The final Level 3 survey report will detail locations which are missing. This work will be aided by drone flying the route to produce further survey data.

Notes and photos of the Roman Aqueduct by Andrew Tate.



Aqueduct on Cleughfoot Farm



Aqueduct on Edges Green Farm

On behalf of Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group I would like to express our thanks to all of you who took part in this survey and hope that you will join us again in further explorations north of Hadrian's Wall.

We also extend our thanks to Dennis Yeats of Cleughfoot Farm for allowing us access to survey, to Pete Schofield of Oxford Archaeology North for his guidance and leadership, and to Heritage Lottery Fund and Northumberland National Park Authority for their financial support for our Beyond the Wall Project.

Phil Bowyer 7/11/16

