

Standingstone Rigg Stone Row. Volunteers' Survey 2013.

On the weekend of August 31st – September 1st 2013 Northumberland National Park and the Altogether Archaeology Project organised a professionally led volunteer survey at the site of a stone row alignment, a type of feature usually regarded as Neolithic. Under the enthusiastic and very informative direction of Peter Schofield from Oxford Archaeology North and Northumberland National Park community archaeologist Gemma Stewart local volunteers spent a windswept weekend conducting the first-ever detailed survey of this important ancient monument.



The stone row, situated 1 km south-west of Great Longbrough Farm, runs for 134m approximately north-south up over the scarp of Standingstone Rigg. There are three sections still extant. Some stones are off-set from one another, offering support to the hypothesis that the row may have originally formed an 'avenue'.



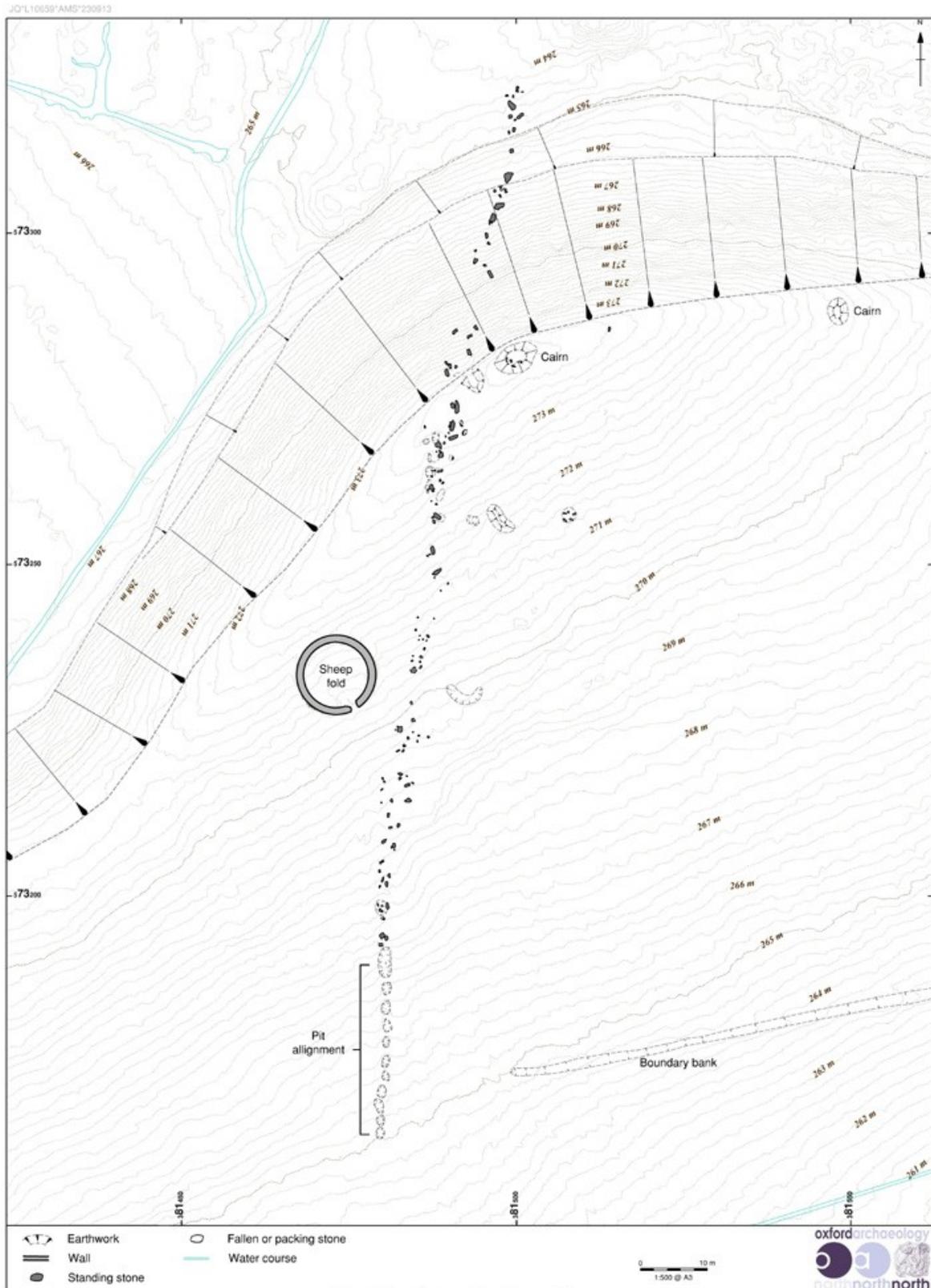


Figure 2: Standingstone Rigg, Topographic survey

The above figure, compiled for Northumberland National Park by Oxford Archaeology North, depicts the results of the 2013 volunteers' survey. In addition to the stone row itself the alignment of 11 pits at the southern end of the row is of particular interest.



Volunteers standing in alignment of pits at south end of stone row.

Volunteers used both manual survey techniques with theodolite and plan drawing, and high tech GPS equipment to record the stone row, pits, cairns and other earthworks at the site.



Owing to the weekend weather the use of a remote controlled aerial photography helicopter had to be delayed until later. In less windy conditions a few days later Jamie Quartermaine of OA North completed this part of the survey to generate a 3D rotatable, zoomable, visual image of the entire site.



This survey, together with that in June 2013 at Ravensheugh Crags, demonstrates the value of the joint approach adopted to research in this area by Northumberland National Park, Altogether Archaeology (North Pennines AONB) and our community archaeology group, together with the survey leadership and support of Oxford Archaeology North. We look forward to further fruitful joint activity.

Our thanks also go to local farmers Alistair Lee and Michael Atkinson for their valuable assistance, and to Jane Lamb of Nunwick Estate for permission to survey on the estate.

For more survey images see our Photo Gallery. *Link needed.*