

Haws House Pasture cairnfield survey blog 2023-2024

Monday 30 October, 2023



Figure 1 HHP2 - a cairn which has been previously excavated, hence the hollow in its centre

Ingleborough had its head in cloud most of the day, and in the end the rain drove us off early, but we got quite a lot done. Yvonne, Clare, Vicki, Sarah and Abigail got started on the task of identifying, describing and numbering all the archaeological structures on the long turf covered limestone pavement. This is all to go into a site database, the first page of which is shown below. Data from the previous site surveys by Alan King (1996) and Arthur Batty (2011) is also included in this table. Photographs were taken at the same time. Both these sets of information will form appendices in the eventual site report.

Site Reference No	Site Type	NGR Easting	NGR Northing	Height OD	Dimensions	Description	King ref	Batty ref
HHP1	Cairn	75374	78558	316	820 x 370 x 60	Cairn. Turf covered with several loose stones on surface. On W edge of raised limestone terrace, sloping down.	N	N
HHP2	Cairn	75316	78525	318	1030 x 940 x 80	Large, slightly oval cairn. Turf covered with several sandstone pieces c.40cm. Central area appears to have been excavated. Possibly originally a round cairn, extended to north by excavation spoil.	L robbed	Y
HHP3	Cairn	75285	78516	317	840 x 400 x 40	Built on slope on edge of terrace. Turf covered cairn with several substantial and prominent sandstone boulders, largest approx. 60cm. Scattered limestone pieces on slope beneath it.	K 5m diameter; 600mm height	Y

Below is a photo of Vicki, Clare, Sarah and Abigail measuring the N terminal of the linear bank HHP15. It was bitter – rain streaking across the site and Ingleborough well hidden from view in gloomy clouds.



Friday 24 November, 2023



Figure 2 The northern half of the Haws House Pasture cairnfield, looking beyond to the Batty Moss Viaduct at Ribbleshead

Freezing wind today, but hey! the sun was shining – and after an autumn of mostly drizzle it was a pleasant shock to the system. The low angle of the winter sunshine highlighted the cairns and other structures scattered round the limestone terrace and, as always, emphasised archaeological features in a revealing way.

We finished off collecting the vital statistics of the archaeological structures and a small team – Then Abigail, Sarah and Clare – were put to work surveying the first cairn, after a short training session with Yvonne. Bob joined us for a couple of hours and started to assess the site from the point of view of the future Total Station survey.



Figure 3 The survey team sheltering from the arctic wind down a convenient shakehole

Wednesday Jan 10, 2024



Figure 4 A busy scene on Haws House Pasture

In the field with eight of us altogether. Bit chilly, but occasional flashes of sun – not as desperate as it can be! We made up three teams.

Mary and Rowan surveyed Cairn No 8, the one with the telegraph pole in it; Beverley and Bob Cairn 9 next door. Both these cairns are simple mounds, about the same size and shape.



Figure 5 (Left) Flagged up Cairn 9;(centre) the finished survey; (right) Bob and Beverley with their handiwork



Figure 6 Difficult to tell who is who! I think Abigail is doing the drawing, Sarah and Clare the tape and offsets

Abigail, Sarah and Clare surveyed the double cairn No.11 just to the south-west of the others. At first glance it looks like a long cairn with a section dug into it two-thirds of the length down, but it's probably two separate ones, now conjoined. Why were they put so close together? And why do they support different types of stone? One has limestone boulders, the other smaller sandstones.

Tuesday 17 January, 2024

We knew it was hopeless surveying today (SNOW!) but we decided to have a tour of Sleights Pasture monument complex and Haws House Pasture instead, followed by a meal at the Station Inn, Ribbleshead. Yvonne took this lovely photograph of the survey team on the ring cairn at HHP. Can't tell who is who, but present are: Sarah, Clare, Abigail, Rowan, Mary and Beverley (I think!). Ingleborough too of course! It always takes a great photo.



6 April, 2024



Figure 7 Flagging up the linear bank HHP15

Today's physical challenge was the wind, blowing at gale force by mid-afternoon when we called it a day. This did lead to some entertaining sights, watching Carol and later Abigail running over the pasture trying to catch up with errant bags which were being blown like kites across the field. They both covered themselves with glory and came back clutching them triumphantly!

We surveyed our first linear feature today (HHP15). Given that it is 26m long, and the bank does not contain any particular features except at the southern terminal, it was decided that a different scale should be used. Instead of 1:50 the scale of 1:100 was implemented. A result of this is that much less detail can be captured – and in an uncanny way this can make surveying harder. It is certainly different to the richer textures of 1:50.

Carol and Tony (today's photographer), both new to measured survey, joined the team today. Carol did the measuring in of points, with Abby and Mary concentrating on the measuring and Tony helping with both. Mary then hachured in half the feature and Abigail the rest. The ratchetting up of the wind left us exhausted by 2.30pm and we called it a day before WE were blown away. Will the weather EVER give us an easy time on Haws House Pasture?

We will return to survey the southern terminal at 1:50 - it has some interesting (?) greywacke(?) rocks on it. A greywacke expert is visiting the site with us this coming Thursday.

We repaired to the Station Inn (again!). Yvonne found a huge toad hopping around the dining room area. Perhaps it was trying to get out of the wind as well. She got squirted with toad juices when she picked it up and took it outside. So much for gratitude!