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CHEETHAM CLOSE
TURTON
LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Survey

Commissioned by:

Lancashire County Council

Cheetham Close
Turton
Lancashire

Archaeological Survey

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SUMMARY

This report details the findings of an archaeological assessment at Cheetham Close, Turton, Lancashire, centred approximately on SD 716 158. The work was commissioned by Lancashire County Council to contribute to a management plan of the area; Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook the work in March 2000. The programme of work comprised a rapid identification survey of Cheetham Close and an intensive survey of the principal sites, a stone circle and a ring cairn, located just north-east of the Cheetham Close summit.

The identification survey involved the systematic field walking of the study area, with the sites being located using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. The intensive survey was undertaken by means of both GPS and Total Station equipment, and involved the creation of detailed mapping at a scale of 1:20.

The extensive survey was intended to investigate the potential for further prehistoric features, within a 500m radius of the principal sites. In the event no new prehistoric sites were identified; however, it did record extensive post-medieval mining remains around the south-western slopes of Cheetham Close. These included seven mines which comprised for the most part horizontal adits into the slope with flat deltaic tongues of spoil extending out from the apertures. These were linked by a series of embanked tramways which extend past the apertures of the adits and extend north-west/south-east along the Cheetham Close ridge.

The intensive survey recorded the stone circle, the ring cairn, two small round cairns, and outlying stones to the stone circle. It established that the stone circle has been subject to very considerable disturbance since first recorded in 1850 (Dryden 1850), with most of the stones having been toppled, moved or broken up. The ring cairn is a very low lying, and accordingly ill-defined, bank with a few scattered putative kerb stones around the edge. There is a probable cairn within the ring cairn bank, but off centre.

Both the stone circle and ring cairn are types of funerary monument. The stone circle is a later variant of the Neolithic open circle and is typologically dated to early to mid Bronze Age. The ring cairn is similarly datable to the early to mid Bronze Age. Open stone circles are often located with an emphasis on access rather than prominence thus the Cheetham Close stone circle is indeed located at the edge of a marked break of slope, on the northern side of the summit, allowing it to have a wide outward vista. Ring cairns, by contrast, are usually found scattered over the upland areas and though often located on hill slopes or on plateaux are rarely found on hill summits; in this respect the Cheetham Close ring cairn is uncharacteristic.

The stone circle in particular has been subject to considerable disturbance, but at present is in a stable condition. There is a concern that any proposals for the enhanced presentation of the site should anticipate the potential for wilful removal of the more portable fragments of the broken up monoliths.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LUAU would like to thank Ian Hart of Lancashire County Council for his assistance in the course of the commissioning and implementation of the survey, and we would also like to thank Peter Iles of the Lancashire Archaeology Service for his advice during the project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Scurfield and Daniel Elsworth, the drawings being produced by Graham Suggett and Neil Wearing. The report was written by Chris Scurfield and Jamie Quartermaine and was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In March 2000 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook an archaeological survey of sites at Cheetham Close, Turton, Lancashire, centred approximately on SD 716 158 (Fig 1). The work was requested by Lancashire County Council in order to contribute to a management plan of the area; it was undertaken in accordance with a verbal brief by Lancashire Archaeology Service.
- 1.1.2 The survey was intended to set the principal monuments within the local archaeological landscape. An intensive survey was undertaken of a group of Bronze Age monuments comprising a stone circle, a ring cairn and associated small cairns. In addition an extensive identification survey was undertaken of the environs, extending up to 500m out from the principal sites.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a summary report which outlines the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological significance of the area, and an evaluation of the archaeological resource. This is complemented by a bibliography and a gazetteer of sites (*Appendix 2*), including those both new to the record and previously known.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted in August 1999 by LUAU in response to a request from Lancashire County Council, for an archaeological survey to contribute to the management plan of the area. The work was in accordance with a verbal brief by Peter Iles of Lancashire County Council Archaeology Services.
- 2.1.2 The project design provided for an extensive survey of an area within 500m of the principal funerary monuments, and also provided for an intensive survey of those monuments. This culminated in the production of survey drawings and an analytical report, which examined the characteristic condition and threat of the identified resource. The project has been undertaken in accordance with the project design.

2.2 EXTENSIVE SURVEY

- 2.2.1 A systematic surface inspection was undertaken of the Cheetham Close extensive survey study area which extends up to 500m away from the principal sites. This area was predominantly unimproved pasture land, albeit within the boundaries of the parliamentary enclosure. The area was walked on 30m transects to identify earthworks and extant surface features. The archaeological detail was mapped to an accuracy of $\pm 0.3\text{m}$, using differential Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques, which use electronic distance measurements along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a fix in Latitude and Longitude, which were subsequently converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. GPS raw data (using a single receiver) was typically accurate to only $\pm 30\text{m}$, but by the use of differential techniques it is possible to achieve much higher accuracies. The Leica system used by LUAU uses a post-processed differential system, which involves the comparison between a roving receiver and a static receiver (at a precisely recorded location) and allows for the elimination of most of the residual errors. This typically results in accuracies of better than $\pm 0.1\text{-}0.2\text{m}$.
- 2.2.2 The survey data from both the GPS and manual surveys were transferred digitally into a CAD system (AutoCAD 14) and were superimposed with 1:10,000 OS raster data.

2.3 INTENSIVE SURVEY

- 2.3.1 The intensive survey was undertaken by a combination of GPS techniques (*Section 2.2*) and total station survey. The great majority of the survey data was captured by total station survey, but a limited amount of peripheral features and topographic detail were recorded by GPS, and the data was then tied in closely to the control of the total station survey.
- 2.3.2 **Total Station Survey Control:** the control for the survey was established by closed traverse using a Zeiss ELTA3 total station, and was able to maintain an internal control accuracy of better than $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. The control was located onto

the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of the GPS, which provided a locational accuracy of $\pm 0.4\text{m}$.

2.3.3 **Detailed survey:** the topographic survey was undertaken to LUAU's Level 3 (LUAU 1996), which provides for a detailed level of purely interpretative survey, and involves very detailed hachure draughting of surface features; this is intended for output at scales of up to 1:20. The archaeological detail was surveyed using the total station and data-logger with respect to the survey control. The digital survey data was transferred, via DXF file format, into a CAD system (AutoCAD14). The archaeological detail was drawn up in the field with respect to plots of the survey data and these edits were then transferred onto the raw survey data within the CAD system.

2.3.7 **Photographic Recording:** a photographic survey was carried out in tandem to record general and detailed views of the features and general site. This was undertaken principally using a 35mm camera for black and white print, and colour transparency formats. Some photography was also undertaken using a digital camera.

2.4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.3.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites in the affected area has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 2*), which provides details of their location, origin, and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible. A summary description of each site is provided in conjunction with a reference to the source of the information (SMR, cartographic, documentary, field inspection), with references as appropriate, and an assessment has been given of the interpretation and archaeological potential of each site. The sites have been marked onto a digital map showing their position (Fig 2).

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full archive of the survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office as recommended by the Museum and Galleries Commission. A copy of the report will be deposited with Lancashire County Council for inclusion in the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 Geologically, the West Pennine Moors consist of a broad east/west orientated anticline, which lifted during the Alpine orogeny. Fluvio-glacial action has continually eroded the anticline into the present drainage pattern, which is marked by residual upland blocks that rise to 300m OD. The area is characterised by steep valleys and gently-sloping dividing ridges. Cheetham Close is at the southern end of the ridge between the Bradshaw Brook and Eagley Brook valleys, and there is a low col between the Cheetham Close summit and the higher Turton Heights to the north (Fletcher 1985, 1). The prehistoric monuments are located at the north-east edge of the summit within 100m of the OS triangulation pillar and enjoy good aspects to all directions apart from the south.
- 3.1.2 The high altitude and high rainfall values in the area, together with poor drainage across the Cheetham Close plateau has resulted in a formation of blanket peat, which is now denuded in places and gritstone erratics are a notable feature (*ibid*),
- 3.1.3 The soil type is of the Winter Hill Association, being an organic peaty soil, which has a grade 5 Land Classification, so is generally used for rough pasture.

3.2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.2.1 The earliest record of the site dates back to 1829 when an anonymous account in the Cambrian Society of that year refers to a six stoned '*bardic temple*' on Cheetham Close (French 1894, 43). The stone circle (Site 3) was first surveyed in 1850 by Sir Henry Dryden (1850; Dawes 1851-2), who produced a 1:64 scale plan of the site and recorded six stones within the circle and outliers to the south-east and south-west. Some years later Greenhalgh (1871) located a seventh stone within the circle.
- 3.2.2 In 1894 French (1894) excavated the adjacent ring cairn (Site 4), revealing a '*perfect stone-walled circle*', '*which is faced on both inside and outside by large flat stones, and the space within is occupied by smaller stones*' (*ibid*, 50-51).
- 3.2.3 In 1954 a saddle quern was found lying on the eastern slope of the hill, about 80m from the stone circle (Fletcher 1987), and then in 1959 the small cairn (Site 2) was excavated by Mr Allan Spencer, a local amateur archaeologist. He also discovered three barbed and tanged arrow heads in a nearby '*peat fire break trench*' (*ibid*).
- 3.2.4 **1983 Archaeological Survey:** in 1983 a detailed survey of the site was undertaken by Mark Fletcher and volunteers from the Bury Archaeological Group (Fletcher 1985). By means of a theodolite survey they created a 1:20 plan of the stone circle (Site 3), the outliers, the small cairn (Site 2) and the ring cairn (Site 4).
- 3.2.5 The stone circle and ring-cairn are Scheduled Monuments (GMC/20).

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 EXTENSIVE SURVEY (FIG 3)

- 4.1.1 The survey took place during March 2000, which allowed for the observation of extant archaeological features during a period of reduced vegetation cover. The survey identified a total of 26 sites, of which seven were subject to intensive survey.
- 4.1.2 **Mine Workings:** the survey recorded an extensive extractive landscape across steep slopes, to the south-west of Cheetham summit, comprising at least seven mines and their associated spoil heaps (Sites 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21). The arrangement of the associated spoil heaps indicates that the majority of these were adit mines which had extruded spoil mounds forming flat deltaic tongues (eg Sites 12 and 21). There were also, however, vertical shafts indicated by ringed spoil around a central depression (Site 15). Site 17 was a well-defined adit, with a steep-sided hollow set into the slope, and a corresponding spoil mound at the entrance. In the base of the hollow was a circular drystone structure (Plate 4), with coursed walls, but these are in a generally collapsed state. Its construction would have impeded the use of the mine and it clearly post-dated its abandonment; the structure probably functioned as a bield, and had been placed in the hollow to provide additional shelter from the elements.
- 4.1.2 **Communications:** possible access routes to the mine workings were identified at Sites 19 and 22. Site 19 was an embanked linear feature leading south-east from the most extensive mine and associated spoil heaps (Site 21). The linear embankment continued parallel to the enclosure wall that marks the edge of the study area close to the Dimple-Chapeltown footpath at the south of the study area. There was also a trackway (Site 22) which assumes an inclined traverse of the south-west slopes of Cheetham Close; it was obscured by vegetation but still retained a marked break of slope, measuring c3m wide. The southerly end, towards the bottom break of slope, was unclear, being truncated by later mine workings (Sites 19 and 20). A further trackway survived as an earthwork extending across the eastern slopes of Cheetham Close. It was a broad, 6m wide, trackway, following a sinuous course, which had been terraced into the slope.
- 4.1.3 Site 10 was an elaborate stile marked by three rectangular stone slabs, which were originally vertically set in a 'kissing gate' configuration with the third stone acting as a gate stop, set 0.5m into the field. The footpath utilises the stile and crosses the lower slopes of Cheetham Close, linking Chapel Town to the Eagley valley. Site 11 was a gatepost, because of a square through-hole in the top of the post, and as such probably represents an 'early' type of gateway.
- 4.1.4 **Quarries:** three small to medium sized quarries were found on the eastern slopes of Cheetham Close (Sites 7-9). The largest of these (Site 7) was set into the slope, adjacent to the junction of two dry-stone walls. Quarries 8 and 9 were much smaller, being only c6m across. Of these, Site 8 was remote from any modern boundaries, but Site 9 was only c20m away from an enclosure wall. Although a track extended across the eastern slopes, none of these quarries were in its immediate vicinity. It is therefore probable that the stone from them was not intended for a wider market, and was more likely to have been intended for the construction of the eighteenth / nineteenth century enclosure walls.

- 4.1.5 **Field Boundary:** a disused field boundary was noted as Site 23, which was still extant as a low turf-covered linear mound with a gateway/gap in the central section.
- 4.1.6 **Miscellaneous:** a small covered reservoir or wellhead was identified as Site 14. Feeding into which was a straight, open drain, which was aligned north-west/south-east. This reservoir may have supplied farms and settlements to the south-west.
- 4.1.7 Site 13 was a coarse sandstone boulder with the evangelical inscription “SUN OF MY SOUL” inscribed into the stone.

4.2 INTENSIVE SURVEY

- 4.2.1 An intensive survey was undertaken of the cluster of sites, 2-5 and 24-6, which are situated to the north-east of Cheetham Close summit, and near the triangulation pillar. Apart from a standing stone (Site 24), which was an outlier of the stone circle (Site 3), the sites were generally low lying and heavily obscured by vegetation. The ring cairn (Site 4) had less vegetation cover than the stone circle (Site 3), but was considerably more obscured than when the earlier survey was undertaken of the monument (in 1983; Fletcher 1985).
- 4.2.2 **Site 2:** this is a moderately prominent cairn, which is 5m x 4.5m in size and rises up to 0.45m above the surface topography (Fig 3). It has a central depression (1m x 1.2m) and a cavity (1m x 0.4m) to the east of the central depression, which is as much as c20% free of turf cover. Both the depression and cavity would appear to be a product of relatively recent disturbance, probably as a result of the excavations by Mr Allen Spencer in 1959 (Fletcher 1987, 24).
- 4.2.3 **Site 3 - Stone Circle:** the stone circle comprises 11 stones in the circumference, each being formed by either a single stone or a cluster of smaller stones (Stones 1 - 11). It has an oval shape, being c20m long and 16m wide, and the long axis is aligned north-east to south-west. Stone 3, however, has been moved from its original position by c1.8m subsequent to the original survey by Dryden (1850), giving the structure its present elongated shape. The Dryden survey showed that the stone circle was made up of substantial upright monoliths, which contrasts dramatically with the predominantly fragmented and recumbent stones seen today; this indicates that the stone circle has been subject to considerable disturbance, which was documented as having occurred between 1870 and 1880 (Fletcher 1987, 22). With the possible exception of Stone 7, none of the 11 primary stones are both *in situ* and completely extant; they have become buried, deliberately toppled, or have been broken up (Fig 4). There are three stones in the centre of the circle which are no taller than 0.10m, and outside the circle is a large stone slab (Site 27) which has been incised, and may be the remains of an outlier, but is now recumbent.
- 4.2.4 **Stone 1:** a relatively small earthfast, recumbent stone c400 x 250mm, on the north-west side of the stone circle (Fig 4); adjacent to it are two smaller stones which are also earthfast. The western portion of the upper surface of Stone 1 appears to have a smooth clean break which has not yet developed a coverage of lichen, and is therefore a relatively recent fracture. However, the shape and position of the principal stone appears to correspond to that shown in the 1983 survey (Fletcher 1985), and this suggests that any fracture or disturbance occurred prior to that date. The stone stands to c0.15m above the ground in the north-west arc of the circle.

- 4.2.5 **Stone 2:** this elongated recumbent stone is on the northern side of the stone circle (Fig 4), and is lying face down with three adjacent smaller stones including one elongated recumbent stone, which is non-earthfast. The principal stone is orientated south-west towards Stone 1, and is set to its east. Patchy lichen and evidence of breaks are evident, which would suggest disturbance in the past, but could date back to the documented episode of damage in 1870-80.
- 4.2.6 **Stone 3:** this large slab stone is on the northern side of the stone circle (Fig 4); it is partially obscured by turf, and is level with the current ground surface. It has a very smooth flat face, which would lend itself easily to decoration, and has indeed been incised, though only roughly. Adjacent to it is a small semi-upright stone which is loose, and clearly *ex situ*.
- 4.2.7 **Stone 4:** this is semi-protruding on the east side of the stone circle (Fig 4); it is possibly *in situ*, being an upright monolith standing to a height of 0.3m, although, it is heavily obscured by grass. Another small stone is adjacent, which was possibly a detached fragment of the main monolith. The lichen pattern is uniform and there is no evidence of break marks; this is therefore one of the least disturbed stones of the circle.
- 4.2.8 **Stone 5:** this is a recumbent and partly turf-covered stone on the east side of the stone circle (Fig 4); adjacent to it are some smaller stones that are not earthfast and are clearly *ex situ*. It stands to c0.10m above the ground and is heavily obscured by turf. No clean breaks could be discerned suggesting recent disturbance.
- 4.2.9 **Stone 6:** this large slab, on the south-east side of the stone circle, is now recumbent, but was probably originally an upright monolith. It incorporates the following incised graffiti: '1949 GL DH CF SJ' and also a further possible incised date which is unintelligible. It stands to 0.3m in height even as a recumbent. The north-western edge of the stone has a clean break and there are fragments of stone around it, indicating evidence of disturbance.
- 4.2.10 **Stone 7:** this is an upstanding stone with no associated stones, located on the southern side of the stone circle. It has a square top and is equal in height and breadth. It has no clean breaks that can be seen and it would appear to be of the same proportions as shown by Dryden (1850) and is possibly *in situ*.
- 4.2.11 **Stone 8:** this is a recumbent stone toppled on its side creating a ridge; it stands to c0.40m. It is located at the south-western point of the stone circle.
- 4.2.12 **Stone 9:** this is a group of turf obscured small broken stones on the south-west side of the stone circle. These were probably elements of a damaged component of one of the monoliths. They have very clean surfaces, suggesting recent disturbance.
- 4.2.13 **Stone 10:** a group of stones on the western side of the stone circle (Fig 4). These were evidently the detached fragments from a former monolith, of which these are the only surviving elements.
- 4.2.14 **Stone 11:** a cluster of nine small stones around the northern side of the stone circle. None of these exceeded 250 x 200mm, and two were extremely loose, although the others were earthfast at the time of survey (March 2000). These may be the fragments of a broken monolith, possibly Stone 1, which is no more than 1.5m away. One of the stones showed a clean break and had grass beneath it, indicating recent disturbance.
- 4.2.15 Three stones are set in an apparent arc, 3.87m long, within the northern arc of the stone circle. These 'inner' stones were between 0.35 and 0.45m in size and as such

are not as broad as the array of 'outer' stones, and being no more than 0.1m in height are less prominent than most of the principal stones of the circle, even in their present condition.

- 4.2.16 **Site 4 (Ring Cairn):** the site comprises an extremely low, generally earthfast bank, up to 0.25m high, which varies in width from 2m to 3.19m (Fig 5). The outer dimensions of the ring bank are from north/south 22.3m and east/west 24.6m, resulting in a 'flattened' circle with the long axis aligned roughly north-east to south-west. The bank is marked by a subtle change in the vegetation to heather from the surrounding general coarse grass; this is indicative of better drained ground, reflecting underlying stone. The break of slope to the south is particularly well defined. The bank created an internal area which had a diameter of about 16.5m and sited just off centre of this area was a sub-rectangular depression (1.9m x 1.4m) with traces of upcast, principally to the east and west immediately adjacent to the depression. This depression appears to have marked an archaeological intervention, probably associated with the late nineteenth century investigations of Gilbert Trench (Fletcher 1987, 24). The north and north-western sides of the monument are not clearly defined. There is a distinct break in the topography of the ring towards the north-east, which may signify a possible entrance, though the natural tussocking of matt grass may be biasing this appearance. The satellite cairn, shown as being on the north-east side of the enclosure, near the entrance, in the 1983 survey (Fletcher 1885), was not identified by the present survey. The level of detail of the stones shown on the 1983 survey plans suggest that the turf coverage has increased drastically, as there were no small stone patches exposed at the time of the current survey (March 2000).
- 4.2.17 The cairn is a conventional stone ring, with stones protruding from the bank. Some of these are merely larger stones belonging to the core of the bank, but some of them appear to be arranged in a linear configuration at the edge of the bank and these were probably kerb stones.
- 4.2.18 **Outlier Stones:** around the stone circle and ring cairn are a series of relatively prominent stones which were potentially established as outliers to either or both of the funerary monuments:
- 4.2.19 **Site 27:** just to the south-east of the stone circle was a large recumbent stone, with a flat upper surface upon which has been inscribed nineteenth and twentieth century graffiti (Plate 1). The stone stands to about 0.25m above the ground surface and is one of the more visible stones. This and an other immediately adjacent monolith is shown on Dryden's plan (1850), but in a position c2m away from where it is now, and it is probable that it has been both toppled and moved. It was evidently a local outlier to the stone circle. Adjacent to the stone is a cluster of around eight stones, which were for the most part recumbent; these are undoubtedly the fragments resultant from the breaking up of the second monolith that was shown on Dryden's plan (1850).
- 4.2.20 **Site 24:** in this respect the most prominent was the Site 24 orthostat. This is the tallest extant stone in the survey area, at 0.45m. The stone is a coarse sandstone and it tapers to an uneven top, which has been inscribed with a simple cross; it is aligned north/south. In plan the stone forms a trapezoid, 0.44m long, and at the widest is 0.34m. Surrounding the stone is a circular array of stones, which have recently been laid out, as grass is still evident under some of the stones. The stone is located the south-west and 17.8 m from the stone circle, but is also a similar distance (15.9m) from the ring cairn.

- 4.2.21 **Site 25:** these are two adjacent stones which have been labelled 25a and 25b. The larger of the two is stone 25a which is relatively large being 0.5m x 0.7m in size but is not upright and protrudes from the ground by only 0.1m; it was partly obscured by vegetation and was difficult to discern. Stone 25b is smaller, being 0.4m x 0.4m and has a similar elevation above the ground. Both stones are adjacent to the putative entrance of the ring cairn, being only c6m and 7.5m away from the edge of the ring cairn. A further stone 25c is located to the east of the ring cairn, but this is relatively small and non-prominent and may be an *in-situ* natural element rather than a specifically positioned outlier.
- 4.2.22 **Site 26:** a curved alignment of stones, c5m long, and comprised of stones 0.25-0.35m across (Plate 3). The arc of stones is c5.1m to the west of the ring cairn (Site 4) and its alignment is parallel to that of the adjacent section of ring cairn bank. This site has not been identified before and bearing in mind its proximity to the ring cairn was probably a component of that monument.
- 4.2.23 Outliers are normally an attribute of stone circles (Burl 1976), but these examples are located between the stone circle and the ring cairn, indeed are generally closer to the ring cairn than to the stone circle, making it difficult to establish to which monument they relate. Stone 27 is immediately adjacent to the stone circle, and as such provides an evident relationship; it is however, on an approximate alignment, as originally identified by Dryden (1850), linking stone 6 of the stone circle, the original position of Stone 27 and finally Stone 25b. The alignment is far from precise and it is possible that this was coincidental, particularly as stone 25b has a spatially closer relationship with the ring cairn. Although it is unusual for ring cairns to have outlying stones the parallel alignment of the arc of stones (Site 26), and the presence of stones 25a and b (and potentially also c) do suggest the presence of outliers specifically relating to the ring cairn. Significantly the only definitive outlier, Site 24, does not have a clear relationship to either of the monuments, although the size and form of the stone is more in character with the original orthostats of the stone circle.
- 4.2.24 **Round Cairn Site 5:** this is a low earthfast mound to the south of the ring cairn (Site 4), it was oval in plan, but its shape may reflect partial vegetation cover. The mound's long axis is aligned north-west/south-east, being 2.53m in length by 1.74m, and it survived to about 0.25m in height. The central part of the mound is surrounded by a 'horseshoe'-shaped break of slope, which was set c5.8m from the mound and took on the form of a possible ditch, which has been obscured around the north and east by the formation of peat.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 VARIANT CIRCLES

5.1.1 In the ensuing discussion it is intended to examine the character, form and chronology of the principal monuments within a regional and national context. In terms of the regional context there is, however, an obvious dearth of stone circles and ring cairns within Lancashire and the adjacent parts of West Yorkshire. Apart from the Cheetham Close stone circle, there is only one other stone circle from Lancashire, namely that at Mosley Height, near Burnley (SD 881 302) (Burl 1995, 69), and only two within the western reaches of Yorkshire: Druids Altar, near Grassington (SD 942 652) and the Twelve Apostles on Ilkley Moor (SD 126 451) (*ibid.*, 90-1). By contrast there are upwards of 45 stone circles from Cumbria (Waterhouse 1985) and therefore the emphasis of this ensuing regional analysis will inevitably centre upon comparisons with monuments from Cumbria.

5.1.2 The principal monuments at Cheetham Close comprised a stone circle and a ring cairn, which are both Bronze Age types of funerary monuments and although both are annular monuments they have very distinct characteristics. Traditionally ring cairns and stone circles have been treated as disparate entities and the net result is that some monuments have been categorised both as ring cairns and stone circles. The interrelationship between these monument types was highlighted by Frances Lynch (1972; 1979), who identified the diversity of form of these annular monuments and categorised them under the catch-all term of 'variant circles'. The term embraces all annular monuments, including stone circles and ring banks. Many of the classic Cumbrian stone circles, such as Long Meg and her daughters and Castlerigg include elements of an earthen bank, and this would indicate that the total separation of stone circles and ring cairns can no longer be seen as valid. If the classification of stone circles (Waterhouse 1985) and the Lynch (1972) classification of ring cairns, are considered, there are broadly seven basic forms of 'variant circle':

- ***Free Standing Stone Circle:*** Site 3 falls into the category of free standing stone circle; it is the traditional form of megalithic stone circle, comprising a circle of stones without an associated bank. There are two basic forms of this circle, those with internal burial mounds which have been classified as 'Encircled Cairns' (Lynch 1979, 7) and the open stone circle which contains no evidence of burial. In Northern England open stone circles are significantly larger than their counterparts with burials (Burl 1976, 40). A significant number of stone circles in the North include internal burial mounds, for example within the Twelve Apostles stone circle on Ilkley Moor (Burl 1995, 91) and the five stone circles on Burnmoor, West Cumbria (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming). However, such burial mounds are not necessarily contemporary with the associated stone circle and may post-date the circles by a considerable period. Hence this classification may be more administrative than actual.
- ***Concentric Stone Circle:*** the concentric stone circle comprises two rings of stones and is a relatively rare form. Although there are three identifiable outliers to the Site 3 stone circle they do not form a coherent circle, and are of insufficient number to form a ring.

- **Embanked Stone Circle:** the embanked stone circle has substantial upright stones set around the inner face of a low ring bank. Sites 3 and 4 do not fall into this category as neither have both embankments and uprights.
 - **Cairn Circle and Kerb Cairn:** the cairn circle and kerb cairn are broadly similar, being substantial kerb stones around a round cairn. The cairn circle is a platform cairn with large uprights incorporated around the edge. The kerb cairn is characterised by its small size, being usually 3m to 5m in diameter and has particularly prominent kerb-stones by comparison with the size of the cairn; the cairn material never rises above the kerb. This type of monument was not identified in the present survey.
 - **Kerbed Ring Cairn:** the kerbed ring cairn has an annular bank edged by a kerb of larger stones. While some evidence of kerbing was identified, Site 4 did not have a sufficient number of diagnostic kerb stones to define it as of this class.
 - **Stone Ring:** the stone ring is the simplest form of circular monument, which comprises a bank of stones, sometimes retained by dry-stone walling and sometimes incorporating an entrance. It is typically larger than the other classes and can be as much as 25m in diameter. This monument type most closely matches the observed evidence for Site 4, and is the type of variant circle most commonly found throughout north-western England.
- 5.1.3 **Variant Circles - Setting and Association:** open stone circles are often located with an emphasis on access rather than prominence (Burl 1976, 61), and Site 3 is indeed located at the edge of a marked break of slope, on the northern side of the Cheetham Close summit, allowing it to have a wide outward vista, but it also can be seen from a broad expanse of the landscape to the north. Ring cairns, by contrast, are usually found scattered over upland areas; they are often located on hill slopes or on plateaux but, unlike round cairns, they are rarely found on hill summits. In this respect the Site 4 ring cairn is uncharacteristic.
- 5.1.4 **Variant Circle Chronology:** this broad range of monument form reflects the development and adaptation of annular monuments over a considerable period. The earliest form was the large open stone circles which extend back into the mid-Neolithic, whereas the embanked and concentric stone circles are typically later generic forms (Burl 1976, 59). Excavations of the other Lancashire stone circle of Mosley Heights revealed an irregular line of four cists containing upright and inverted Pennine Urns (Burl 1995, 69), which are broadly of Bronze Age date, and also a possible food vessel, which would, in Northern England suggest a late Neolithic - mid Bronze Age date (Gibson 1986). Other stone circles in Cumbria have produced 'Cumbrian' axes, eg Castlerigg circle (Waterhouse 1985, 97) and Grey Croft circle, near Sellafield (Fletcher 1957), which would suggest a late Neolithic date. In general, though, there is a lack of appropriate dating for the North-West stone circles despite their relative quantity. Burl (1976, 60) has, however, attempted to provide a rough chronology for the Northern England circles on the basis of various traits which have been determined from dated sites outside the region. Early traits are defined as a diameter exceeding 27m, having over 20 stones, an entrance, stones over 1m high and a circular or flattened shape; later traits include concentricity, an oval shape and embanked stones. On the basis of these criteria stone circles such as Castlerigg and Swinside are Neolithic in date but Site 3 at Cheetham Close could not be regarded as an early stone circle; instead it is a small circle (c18m in diameter), with a limited number of stones. It is located

on a hill summit and displays characteristics of later stone circles, which are typically dated to early or middle Bronze Age, on the basis of dated monuments outside the region, such as the stone circle at Cefn Gwernffrwd in Dyfed (dated to c2000 BC from a radiocarbon-dated palynological core (Chambers 1983)).

- 5.1.5 Ring cairns such as Site 4 are generally regarded as a Bronze age monuments. The Totley Moor ring cairn was found to have a middle Bronze Age date on the basis of ceramics (Radley 1966), and dates from Shaugh Moor ring cairn 2 are 1881-1638 Cal BC (3430+-80BP, HAR-2220) and 1679-1435 Cal BC (3249 +- 80 BP, HAR-2214). There are several excavated ring cairns from Northern Britain: the construction period of a ring cairn at Manor Farm, Borwick (North Lancashire) was dated to the early Bronze Age, based primarily on radio-carbon dates (1740-1410 Cal BC (3270+-80BP, HAR-5658; Olivier 1987, 180)); the ring cairn at Weird Law, Peebleshire, produced a middle Bronze Age radio-carbon date (MacLaren 1966); the ring cairn at Levens Park, Cumbria had a primary burial dated to the early Bronze Age on the basis of ceramics (Sturdy 1972); and, finally, a cairn at Whitestanes Moor, Dumfrieshire, generated a radio-carbon date of 1727-1496 CalBC (3310 +- 90 BP; Scott-Elliott and Rae 1965). All these examples suggest an early to middle Bronze Age date range for the simple stone ring type of ring cairn.
- 5.1.6 **Function:** it is evident that the form of these annular monuments has developed over a considerable period and it would also appear that the function has undergone a similar transition. The large open circles, displaying Burl's (1976) early traits, appear to have served a different function from the later stone circles and ring cairns. The early stone circles, even when excavated, often do not display evidence of contemporary burial and this has prompted the suggestion of alternative ceremonial or ritual functions. Thom (1967) has proposed that megaliths and some stone circles served as astronomical observatories for determining the solstices and equinoxes; the significant astronomical alignments, however, only appear to be valid for a limited number of the stone circles. The presence of goods, such as stone axes, outside a burial context, may be evidence that the sites served at least in part as a trading centre. Ultimately, these earlier stone circles may have served multiple functions: for conducting rituals, for trading, for burial and even possibly for defining a calendar.
- 5.1.7 The later stone circles appear to reflect a more rationalised function, concentrating primarily on burial; they are typically smaller in extent, have a smaller number of stones, are in prominent positions rather than on lines of natural communications, and they often include burial mounds. The Site 3 stone circle for the most part falls into this broad characteristic form, being relatively small and incorporating a small number of monolith stones. It does, however, incorporate a series of outliers, eg Stones 24 and 25, and these have been interpreted generically as astronomical pointers (Thom 1967). While undoubtedly some outliers at some stone circles have been convincingly demonstrated to have had some astronomical function, it is far from proven that all outliers were so intended, particularly as they are often set at a broad variety of differing points of the compass. However, it is fair to suggest that most stone circles with outliers have at least some characteristics of the earlier open circles, and can thus be considered transitional types.
- 5.1.8 The true ring cairns are specifically funerary in function; the funerary remains are within burial pits and are usually cremation burials, either within urns or simply within the pits. Within the interior of many ring cairns are low mounds, which, are

usually made of stone and may cover one or more burial pits such as SM38 at Stockdale Moor, West Cumbria (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming). More specifically within Site 4 there was clearly one central mound and according to the earlier survey (Fletcher 1985) there was a secondary 'satellite cairn' to the north of the enclosed area. While these cairn(s?) would clearly point towards a funerary function, no excavations have been undertaken of the ring cairn or its central mound and it is therefore not possible to confirm the date, and character of any burial remains to be established within the monument.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 THREAT

- 6.1.1 Comparisons with the original survey undertaken by Dryden (1850) demonstrate that the stone circle has been subject to very considerable disturbance in the intervening years. All the more substantial stones have been either toppled, moved or broken up. The extent of the damage is such that, in summer conditions, when the matt grass is at full growth, it is almost impossible to see the component stones from anything more than about 10m away. For the most part, however, the damage can be attributable to episodes of wilful destruction in 1870 and 1880 (Fletcher 1987, 20-1), and comparisons between the present record and that undertaken in 1983 indicate that the stones have not diminished in number, although a few new breaks may be indicative of limited disturbance. Although the summit of Cheetham Close is subject to a significant level of visitor pressure, there are relatively few visitors to the stone circle itself, to judge by the limited disturbance of the grass around the stone circle. Similarly, the ring cairn is well obscured by vegetation in the height of summer and does not appear to be the recipient of undue visitor pressure.
- 6.1.2 Typically, in upland contexts, there is an increasing problem of sheep erosion affecting the condition of monuments, yet at Cheetham Close, to judge by the rampant grass vegetation cover across the summit, there is remarkably little grazing pressure upon the monuments.
- 6.1.3 **Presentation:** at present, despite the earlier damage, the site is in a stable condition, but there is a risk that any enhanced presentation of the monument may result in an increased level of threat. While in its original state the monument was resilient to casual visitor pressure, now the site is more vulnerable. The broken components of the original stones are in many cases loose, although still in the environs of the parent stone. Such stones are very portable and there is a risk that increasing visitor pressure will result in the loss or removal of some of these detached fragments.

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APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

August 1999

**Lancaster
University
Archaeological
Unit**

**CHEETHAM CLOSE
TURTON**

LANCASHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

This project design is presented in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines, as specified in Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Lancashire County Council for an archaeological survey at Cheetham Close, Turton, Lancashire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 This project design is offered in response to a request by Lancashire County Archaeological Service, for an archaeological survey of Cheetham Close, near Turton, Lancashire (SD 716 158) an area of unimproved upland with surviving standing monuments. The survey is intended to inform the management of the area.

1.2 BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The area of investigation is centred upon a group of important prehistoric monuments comprising a stone circle with two outlying stones, a ring cairn and two small round cairns. Both the stone circle and the ring cairn are scheduled ancient monuments (SAM Lancs 53a and 53b respectively). The stone circle (SMR 169) comprises six stones, of variable height, set within a sub-circle (18m x 16m), with no evidence of any central mounds, although the size and form of the stone circle are consistent with the smaller and typically Bronze Age type. The adjacent ring cairn (SMR 170) comprises a bank revetted internally and externally, with no obvious entrance and a single cairn in the centre which has been severely disturbed by antiquarian excavations. Both are consistent with a Bronze Age funerary tradition. A saddle quern has been found at a distance of c60m from the stone circle and it has been reported that there are further mounds around the principal sites (P Iles pers comm), but it is not known if these mounds are of anthropogenic origin.

1.3 LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

- 1.3.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of the evaluation, survey and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 17 years. One of its particular specialisms is in the sphere of landscape recording and assessment. LUAU has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU is one of the few organisations registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA / No 27), and its members of staff adhere to the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 1.3.2 LUAU has undertaken a large number of upland landscape surveys for a variety of clients (both private and national agencies such as English Heritage and RCHM(E)) and employs a qualified surveyor (James Quartermaine, BA, DipSurv, MIFA) who has many years experience of the identification and survey of upland landscapes, having worked closely with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects.
- 1.3.3 Since 1982 LUAU has been undertaking extensive upland landscape surveys throughout Northern England but mainly in the Lake District; the work has been on such a scale that now only the RCHM(E) has undertaken more extensive upland survey work in this country. Surveys include the Lake District National Park Survey, the Torver Common surveys (Lake District), Haweswater and Thirlmere estate surveys (Lake District), that of Lyme Park (Peak District), the whole of the Arnsdale / Silverdale AONB, the Anglezarke and Rivington Moors which are near the study area, much of the Forest of Bowland AONB and a multitude of smaller landscape projects which include the Otterburn Range surveys in the Northumberland National Park. To date LUAU has undertaken archaeological field surveys of over 390sqkm of upland landscapes and has recorded over 18,000 field monuments. On the Arnsdale / Silverdale project, in 1992, LUAU was the first archaeological organisation in Britain to use GPS (Global Positioning System) survey techniques and since then has considerably advanced its skills in this area. LUAU can therefore claim to be one of the foremost specialists in the field of upland landscape recording.

1.4 ARCHIVE AND DEPOSITION

- 1.4.1 The results of the survey will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project.
- 1.4.2 Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the archive with the Lancashire Record Office, as recommended by the Museum and Galleries Commission. A copy of the report will be deposited with Lancashire County Council, for inclusion, as appropriate, in the county SMR.
- 1.4.3 Any finds will be treated in accordance with LUAU standard practice which follows current IFA guidelines.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the programme are the systematic survey of the designated area, recording all archaeological features in order to inform the management of the landscape. The programme has been designed in accordance with a verbal brief by Peter Iles of Lancashire County Archaeological Service, to provide an appropriate level of archaeological survey, within its broader context. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 Extensive Survey

An extensive survey is to be undertaken by an experienced landscape archaeologist to record any features within the environs of the principal sites. It would examine an area within an approximate 500m radius of these principal sites. This would provide a detailed description of the sites in conjunction with a Level 1 GPS survey of the main features (*See Appendix 1*).

2.3 Intensive Survey

A level 3 survey of the principal group of funerary monuments is to be undertaken.

2.4 Survey Report

A written survey report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a regional and national context. It will make recommendations for the future management of the site.

3. METHODS STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 EXTENSIVE SURVEY

- 3.2.1 It is proposed to undertake a level 1 survey of the study area (*See Appendix 1*), which is defined approximately as the area within a 500m radius of the principal sites and is shown on the attached map. The survey will exclude the principal sites which will be the subject of the intensive survey (*Section 3.3*). The aim of the survey is to record the existence, location and extent of the archaeological features within the study area. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description which will assess the character, and establish the relationships between individual features. The descriptive assessment will examine specifically the evidence for early features, and areas of working and will be undertaken in conjunction with available documentary sources.
- 3.2.2 The sites will be located by means of Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques to locate and record the features. GPS instrumentation uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, which can achieve accuracy of better than +/- 1m. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.3 The survey data will be transferred digitally into a CAD system and can there be superimposed with topographic raster OS 1:10,000 digital data to be provided by Lancashire County Council (under licence). The survey will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1:5000 or any other scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological

information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.

3.3 INTENSIVE SURVEY

- 3.3.1 It is proposed to undertake a level 3 survey (see LUAU survey levels, *Appendix 1*) of the principal sites, which is equivalent to RCHM(E) level 3. The survey will extend up to 50m away from the two funerary monuments and will include the associated small round cairns. All appropriate topographic detail will be recorded to provide an appropriate context for the archaeological detail. Although the survey data will include altitude information this will not be used for the production of the level 3 survey.
- 3.3.2 Survey control will be established over the site by closed traverse and internally will be accurate to +/- 15mm; the control network will be located onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid by the use of Global Positioning Survey (GPS), which will locate to an accuracy of +/- 0.5m.
- 3.3.3 The surface features will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a data logger, the accuracy of detail generation being appropriate for a 1:100 output. The digital data will be transferred onto a portable computer for manipulation and later transfer to other digital or hard mediums. Film plots will be output via a plotter. The archaeological detail will be drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on the plots with respect to survey markers. Most topographic detail will also be surveyed, particularly if it is archaeologically significant or is in the vicinity of archaeological features. The survey drawings will be generated within a CAD system and can be output at any scale, and can also be provided in digital format for incorporation within the SMR ArcInfo GIS system. The output of the CAD mapping will allow its adaptation for presentational purposes.
- 3.3.4 In conjunction with the archaeological survey a photographic archive will be generated, which will record significant features and general landscapes.
- 3.3.5 The survey would be accompanied by a gazetteer description of individual archaeological features, which will relate directly to the survey mapping. This stage of the survey will involve a detailed assessment of the site and its general context and will be undertaken by an experienced landscape archaeologist.

3.4 SURVEY REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of Stages 3.1-3 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the Lancashire SMR.
- 3.4.3 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Lancashire County Archaeological Service. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, together with appropriate illustrations, including a map and gazetteer of known or suspected sites identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. It will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail.
- 3.4.4 This report will examine the significance of the landscape within a national and regional context. It will specifically present the evidence for prehistoric activity within the environs. Illustrative

material will include a location map, and survey plans; it can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design.

- 3.4.5 **Proposals:** the report will make recommendations for the management of the site.
- 3.4.6 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

3.5 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.5.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through Lancashire County Council.
- 3.5.2 **Health and Safety:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the excavation of the trenches, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. LUAU provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1991) and risk assessments are implemented for all projects.
- 3.5.3 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of LUAU, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of LUAU or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £ 2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

3.6 PROJECT MONITORING

- 3.6.1 **Lancashire County Council:** any proposed changes to the project brief or the project design will be agreed with the County Archaeologist, Lancashire County Council, in conjunction with the client. LUAU will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

The phases of work will comprise:

- 4.1 **Extensive Survey**
A two day period is required for the extensive survey
- 4.2 **Intensive Survey**
A two day period is required to undertake the intensive survey
- 4.3 **Prepare Survey Report**
A three day period would be required to complete this element.
- 4.4
LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. However, it is suggested that the survey be undertaken during the winter or spring months when the grass is low and will not restrict unduly the visibility of the archaeological features. Spring is preferable to late autumn because the winter snow and ice tends to suppress any residual summer growth.

4.5 STAFF

- 4.5.1 The project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv** (LUAU Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. He will supervise the survey and will

monitor the progress of the project ensuring adherence to all agreed programmes and timetables. He will also provide technical back-up, advice, and will have editorial control over the compilation of the full report. He has many years experience of surveying upland landscapes, particularly in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. He has undertaken an intensive survey of the nearby Anglezarke and Rivington moors for North West Water Ltd.

APPENDIX 3 SITE GAZETTEER

Site number 1
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71653 15913
Site type Bield
Period Post-medieval
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description The site is located at the top break of the north-east-facing slope of Cheetham Close. The site comprises a sub-circular stone structure with a diameter of 3.5m. The stone structure is 0.75m high and consists of large sandstone boulders, some of which are possibly curved in plan. There is a break in the stone wall at the north-east section, which probably represents a crude form of entrance. Spread around the eastern side of the site is an apron-shaped spoil heap, which is up to 3m wide and 1.2m high. The structure is probably a small bield.
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 2
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 7164 15905
Site type Cairn
Period Bronze Age
Source Fletcher 1985 (Cairn III); Identification Survey 2000
Description The site is located on the top break of a north-east slope and commands a superb aspect along the valley to the north-east. It is a circular cairn, with a 5m diameter, and incorporates smallish, sub-rounded stones (c0.3m x 0.3m). The cairn rises up to 0.35m above the sloping topography and has a central sub-rectangular depression (1m x 1.2m), and a further cavity (0.6m x 0.3m) 1m to the east. The base of the cavity is formed by a large stone which is approximately 0.35m long and appears to be an original and integral part of the cairn; this may mark the position of a cist. The mound is largely covered by grass and moss, with the tops of the stones breaking the surface (25%).
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 3
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71631 15890 (*centred on*)
Site type Stone circle
Period Bronze Age
Source Fletcher 1985 (Cairn I); Identification Survey 2000
Description This site is located at the north-east tip of the summit of Cheetham Close, close to a break of slope (Fig 2). The area has good views in all directions, particularly to the north. The topography comprises a fairly gentle slope and at the time of survey had a dense ground cover of matt grass. With the possible exception of Stone 7, none of the 10 primary stones are now *in situ* or completely extant (Fig 4). Most of the stones have been buried, deliberately toppled, or broken up. The area delineated by the stones has little topographic variation from that of the plateau in general. Repositioning of some of its stones has given the monument the appearance of a 'flattened' circle, some 20m long and 16m wide, with the long axis running north-east to south-west. There are three stones in the centre of the circle, which are no taller than 0.10m.
Stone 1: a small, predominantly earthfast, recumbent stone c400 x 250mm, adjacent to which are two considerably smaller stones which are also earthfast. The western portion of the upper surface of Stone 1 appears to have a smooth clean break which has not yet developed a coverage of lichen. The stone corresponds to that shown in the 1983 survey (Fletcher 1985), and stands to c0.15m above the ground.
Stone 2: an elongated recumbent stone with three adjacent smaller stones, including one further elongated recumbent stone, which was possibly a detached fragment of an original

monolith. The main stone is orientated south-west towards Stone 1. The dimensions are 0.91m x 0.51m. It has patchy lichen and evidence of breaks.

Stone 3: a large slab stone which is heavily embedded into, and so obscured by, the turf. It has a very smooth flat face, which would lend itself easily to decoration, and has indeed been incised, though only roughly. The stone is level with the current ground level. The dimensions are 0.96m x 0.57m. Adjacent to it is a small semi-upright stone which is *ex situ* and not earthfast.

Stone 4: a possibly *in situ* upright monolith standing to a height of 0.4m, the stone is heavily obscured by the grass. Its dimensions are 0.48m x 0.48m. Another small stone is adjacent to it, which would suggest that it has been broken. The lichen pattern is uniform and there is no evidence of recent fractures. It is one of the least disturbed stones.

Stone 5: a recumbent and earthfast stone, with smaller stones adjacent to it that are not earthfast and are clearly *ex situ*. It stands to c0.10m above the ground and is heavily obscured by turf. No clean breaks could be discerned. Its dimensions are 0.71 x 0.56m.

Stone 6: a large slab is now recumbent, but was probably originally an upright monolith. It has been subject to the following incised graffiti: '1949 GL DH CF SJ'. It stands to 0.3m in height and the stone seems to face inwards towards the centre of the circle. The north-western edge of the stone has a clean break and there are fragments of stone around it. Its dimensions are 1.3m x 1.0m.

Stone 7: an upstanding stone with no outlying stones, it has a square top and is equal in height and breadth. Its dimensions are 0.92m x 0.61m. It has no clean breaks. This stone seems to be of its original proportions and *in situ*.

Stone 8: a recumbent stone toppled on its side creating a ridge, it stands to c0.40m. Its dimensions are 0.89m x 0.41m.

Stone 9: a group of small broken stones obscured by the turf. These are probably the damaged components of one of the monoliths. They have very clean surfaces suggesting recent disturbance.

Stone 10: a group of stones detached from a component of a monolith, although there is no large stone surviving within the group.

Stone 11: a cluster of small stones, none of which exceed 250 x 200mm. Two of these were extremely loose, the others were earthfast at the time of survey (March 2000). These may be the fragments of a broken monolith, possibly Stone 1, which was no more than 1.5m away. One of the stones showed a clean break and had grass beneath it, indicating relatively recent disturbance.

Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number	4
Site name	Cheetham Close
NGR	SD 71641 15847
Site type	Ring Cairn
Period	Bronze Age
Source	Fletcher 1985 (Ring Bank Cairn II); Identification Survey 2000
Description	This site features a low (c0.15m) ring-shaped bank, with a diameter of around 22m. The bank is marked by a subtle change in the vegetation to heather from the general coarse grass; this is diagnostic of a better drained ground and therefore indicative of a sub-surface stone concentration. The break of slope to the south is well defined, particularly towards the inner side of the ring cairn. The north and north-western sides of the monument are not clearly defined. There is a distinct break in the topography of the ring towards the north-east of the circle this and may signify a possible entrance, though the natural landscape of clumped matt grass may be biasing this appearance. The satellite cairn shown in the 1983 survey (Fletcher 1885) can no longer be seen. The level of detail of stones shown on the 1983 survey plans suggests that the turf coverage has increased drastically since then, as no stone patches were exposed at the time of the current survey (March 2000). The cairn is a conventional stone ring, there are stones occurring along it, though these are for the most part component stones rather than being actual kerb stones. Towards the centre of the mound is a small circular-shaped depression (c1.5m) which is circled by a low spread of stones and may represent a possible cairn that has been robbed, but once formed a central feature of the monument.
Assessment:	The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 5
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71661 415814
Site type Cairn
Period Bronze Age
Source Fletcher 1985 (Cairn IV); Identification Survey 2000
Description A small circular (2m diameter) earthfast mound, which rises to 0.25m above the ground. The mound is encircled by what appears to be a circular 'ditch', but this may be a product of erosion.
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 6
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71838 16023 to 72176 15608
Site type Trackway
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Fletcher 1985; Identification Survey 2000
Description This is a broad, 6m wide, trackway which has been formed by excavation of the southern edge, forming a cut into the hillside, and a corresponding embankment along the northerly edge. It is up to c1m high. The trackway spans the north-eastern slope of Cheetham Close and it crosses a fenced boundary via an *in situ* gate. The track is now disused and has been overgrown with coarse moorland grass.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 7
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71897 15608
Site type Quarry
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description This site is evident as a depression and associated spoil heap; the site is oval in plan and is c10m x 12m. The quarry has steeply inclined slopes. There is a north-east-facing working face, which is now entirely covered in vegetation. The quarry features occasional stones which are still extant. There is a total of three spoil heaps to the south-east of the depression, the longest of which extends towards the south-east by up to 4m and is 1m high.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 8
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 72032 41618
Site type Quarry
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description The site is situated on a south-east-facing slope and forms a small circular (6m diameter) depression which is 1.5m deep and marked by reeds at the centre. There are two associated spoil heaps to the south-east and south-west; these flank a possible trackway towards the south-east.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 9
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 72166 415517
Site type Quarry?
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000

Description A small 2m-diameter depression with 'apron'-like spoil heaps around the south-east margins. The spoil heap is 3m x 2m and rises to 0.5m above the surrounding topography.

Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 10
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 72138 15440
Site type Stile
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A gateway set into an enclosure wall. This gateway consists of two upright stones set 0.3m apart and at right-angles to the main direction of the wall. The north-eastern stone features two sets of iron hinges set in lead, and each upright has an ashlar recess for a gate. There is a further sandstone upright, set at right-angles to the two stones in the wall, 0.5m into the field and this would have acted as a stop stone for a swing gate. The gateway appears to be contemporary with the enclosure wall.

Assessment: The site lies on the edge of the extensive study area.

Site number 11
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 72172 15430
Site type Gatepost
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A single upright stone with a through mortice hole, which has been formed towards the top of the stone. The stone is currently set in the wall and probably marks an 'old' gateway onto Cheetham Close.

Assessment: The site lies on the edge of the extensive study area.

Site number 12
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71720 15425
Site type Adit
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A large elongated mound, 40m x 15m x 2.5m high, which consists of dark finely laminated sedimentary stone. The mound is flat topped and arranged in a 'deltaic' shape, which leads, via a 2m broad causeway, to a 'horseshoe'-shaped hollow set in the hillside. This arrangement is typical of an adit. All the slopes are covered in vegetation apart from small patches on the spoil heap; this allowed examination of the mound material, which appears to be shale. The adit was located at the end of a 'crescent'-shaped causeway.

Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 13
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71733 15424
Site type Inscribed stone
Period Post-medieval
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description This is a natural boulder, 0.75m across, and within a cluster of three. The boulder dips (20°) to the south-west and on the upper surface is an inscription: "*SUN OF MY SOUL*" which has been engraved relatively recently to judge by the clean character of the marks.

Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 14
Site name Cheetham Close

NGR SD 71629 15464 - 71641 15400
Site type Water basin
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description This is a circular depression, 1.5m deep with a 2.5m diameter. The depression is located at the south-eastern end of a linear drain, the upcast from which has been laid along the downslope side. There is also a large mound, which extends 5m to the south of the depression. The feature appears to be a water basin that has involved the collection of water for use further down the slope, perhaps in the form of a sluice or spring.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 15
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71655 15414
Site type Mine Shaft
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A low oval-shaped mound with a diameter of c12-14m. It consists of a central circular depression, 1.75m deep with a diameter of 5m. The site is a typical mine shaft with associated shale spoil.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 16
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71649 15494
Site type Mine
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description An oval-shaped feature with a 7m-diameter depression, and an associated 'apron' spoil heap, which extends to the south-west for 6m. The pit is 0.5m deep and is covered in vegetation; there are occasional patches of the underlying shale spoil visible.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 17
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71655 15558
Site type Mine
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description The site has two phases: the extant remains of a probable mine and the possibly later erection of a circular structure (Plate 4). The site is on a steep slope and consists of a large hollow cut into the hillside, which is about 10m deep and has an 8m diameter. There is an associated spoil heap forming a 'tongue'-shaped mound to the south-west, which is currently covered by short grass. A circular structure has been built in the hollow, which has a 3m diameter with a central depression. The walls are drystone sandstone blocks and are not coursed, appearing to be roughly heaped in a circular form. The 'inside' of the structure is rock filled and c0.35m deep. There are two timbers (1.2m long) which may be associated. There is no apparent entrance into the structure but it was probably a later field.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 18
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71586 15485
Site type Mine
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries

Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A linear hollow, 10m long by 6m wide and 2.2m deep, which forms the aperture to an adit. The site has been truncated towards the south-west by an embanked access route, possibly a tramway (Site 19).
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 19
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71546 15533 - 71624 15400
Site type Tramway
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A 2m wide linear embankment which leads from Site 22 and extends south-east, parallel with the adjacent field wall, which marks the edge of the study area (Plate 5). The embankment traverses a number of stream courses and was probably a tramway to access the largest mine in the study area (Site 21).
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 20
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71539 15537
Site type Mines
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description The site comprises a series of low circular depressions (0.75m deep), each with a 6m diameter. The associated spoil from these shafts is arranged mainly to the west, adjacent to the field wall, and has become more or less amalgamated together. Originally the site would have consisted of two mine shafts some 8m apart. The entrance to the site is crossed by the 'tramway' (Site 19), which affects the north-eastern fringe of the site at the base of the south-westerly slope. The implication is that the tramway post-dates the mine.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 21
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 7148 1562
Site type Mine
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description This is the largest mine complex in the study area, comprising a series of levelled and amalgamated spoil heaps, which consist of thicker laminated shale with a characteristic iron red hue. Set into the hillside is a comparatively small splayed depression (6 x 3m) which is the entrance of an adit.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 22
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71483 15743 - 71522 15626
Site type Track
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A 3m wide track orientated north/south which traverses the south-west-facing hillside (Plate 6).
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 23
Site name Cheetham Close

NGR SD 7134 1581
Site type Wall
Period Post-medieval
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description This is a low linear mound, 2.5m wide by c50m long, which is aligned south-west to north-east. There is a gap for a gated access point towards the centre. The bank is the decayed remains of a former boundary wall, which subdivided the present enclosure and was therefore contemporary with the enclosure walls.
Assessment: The site lies within the extensive study area.

Site number 24
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71622 15865
Site type Standing stone
Period Bronze Age
Source Fletcher 1985 (Outlier 'H'); Identification Survey 2000
Description This is an outlying stone relative to Site 3, and is 17.8m away from and to the north-east of it. It is inclined at about 20° and is c0.4m high. On top of the stone is an incised cross which is aligned to the points of the compass.
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 25
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71657 15856
Site type Standing Stone?
Period Bronze Age
Source Fletcher 1985 (Outlier 'G'); Identification Survey 2000
Description a) a large stone substantially covered by grass and is 7m away from the ring cairn. The stone is a coarse sandstone and measured 0.25 x 0.2m and is extant to around 0.15m above the ground.
b) a moderate sized earthfast stone c 8.0m away from the ring cairn (Site 4). It is 0.4m x 0.4m in size.
c) a further stone is located to the east of the ring cairn, but this is relatively small and non-prominent (c0.35m x 0.3m) and may be an in-situ natural element rather than a specifically positioned outlier.
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 26
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71623 15847
Site type Stone kerb?
Period Bronze Age
Source Identification Survey 2000
Description A curved alignment of stones, which is approximately 5m long and 0.25-0.35m wide. This site was located adjacent to the north-west to south-east footpath, which leads to the triangulation point. It was not identified by the earlier survey and could potentially be part of an outer ring of the adjacent ring cairn.
Assessment: The site lies within the intensive study area.

Site number 27
Site name Cheetham Close
NGR SD 71623 15847
Site type Recumbent Outlier Stone
Period Bronze Age
Source Identification Survey 2000

- Description** A large stone to the immediate south-east of the stone circle. It has been incised with nineteenth / twentieth century graffiti, and this may be the remains of an outlier, but is now recumbent. It is 1.3m x 1.0m in size. Adjacent to the stone is a group of smaller fragments which may be the remains of another upright.
- Assessment:** The site lies within the intensive study area.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig 1 Site location map
- Fig 2 Cheetham Close Extensive Survey Area
- Fig 3 Cheetham Close Intensive Survey Area
- Fig 4 Detail Map of Stone Circle - Site 3
- Fig 5 Detail Map of Ring Cairn - Site 4



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000
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 kilometres

Fig 1: Cheetham Close Location Map

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PROJECT:

CHEETHAM CLOSE
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SURVEY

DRAWING No:

2



DRAWN BY: GJS/NW

DATE: March 2000

LOCATION:



KEY

Trackway/Linear
 feature

Extent of site

Localised site

Intensive study area

8

13

□

TITLE:

Extensive survey area

COMMISSIONED BY:

Lancashire County
 Council

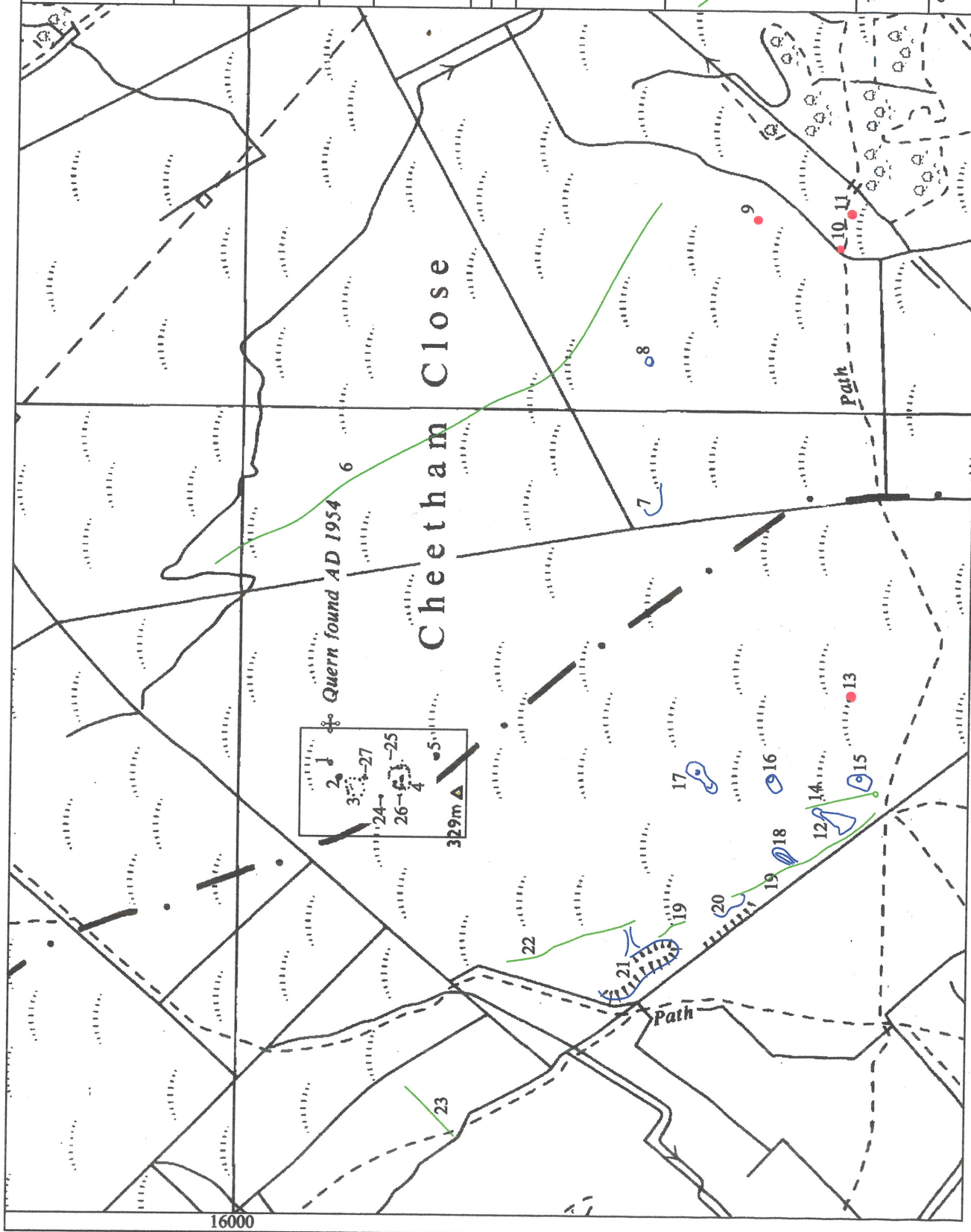


Fig.2 : Cheetham Close extensive survey area

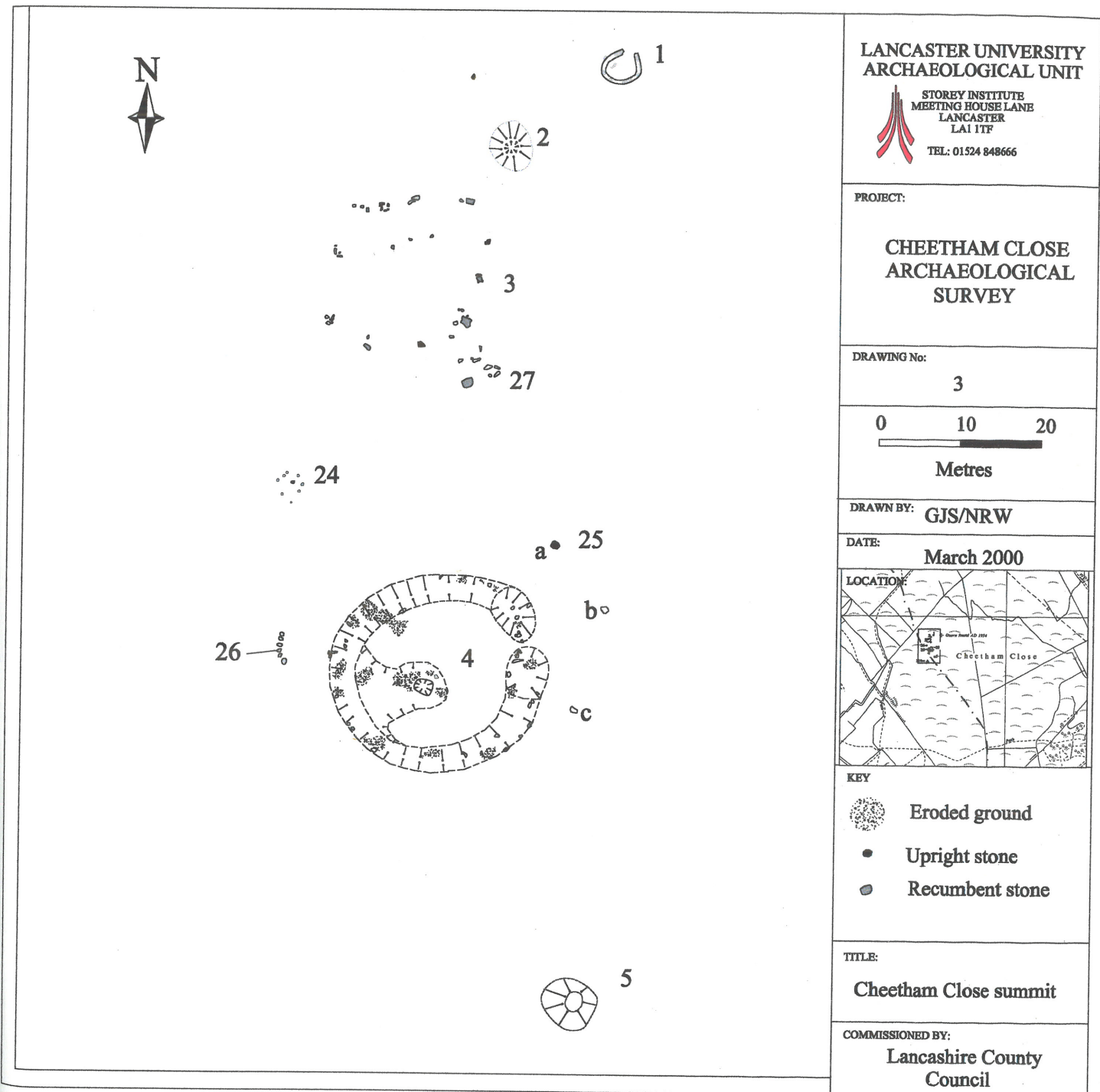


Fig 3. Cheetham Close intensive survey area

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TEL: 01524 848666

PROJECT:

CHEETHAM CLOSE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

DRAWING No:

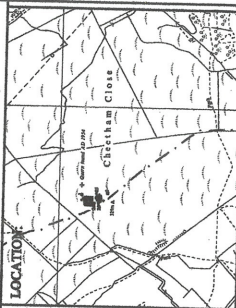
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0 5
Metres

DRAWN BY: GJS/NRW

DATE:

March 2000



KEY

Eroded Ground

Upright stone

Recumbent stone

TITLE:

Stone Circle - Site 3

COMMISSIONED BY:

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Fig 4. Site 3 - Stone Circle

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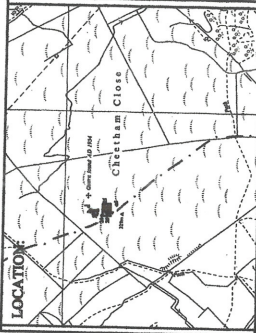
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DRAWN BY: GJS/NRW

DATE: March 2000



KEY

- Eroded Ground
- Upright stone
- Recumbent stone

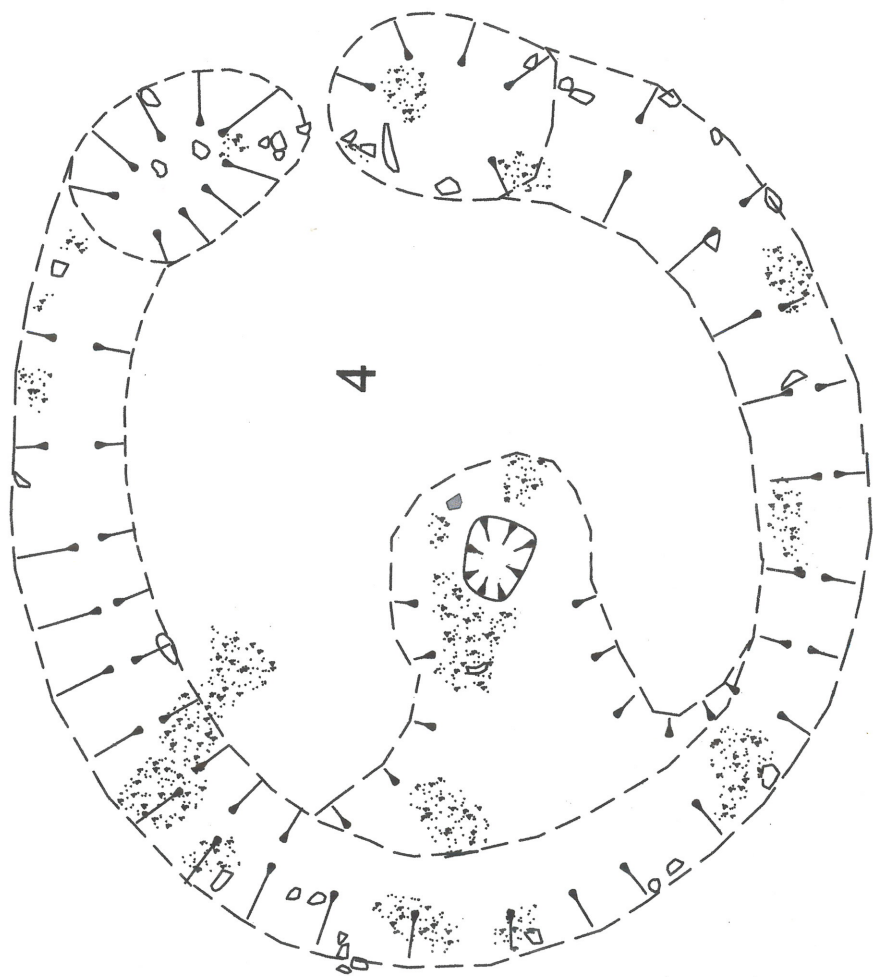
TITLE:

Ring Cairn - Site 4

COMMISSIONED BY:
 Lancashire County
 Council



25



26



Fig 5: Ring Cairn: Sites 4, 25 and 26

PLATES

- Plate 1 Site 3 the stone circle
- Plate 2 Site 5 small cairn to the south-east of Site 4
- Plate 3 Site 26 curved stone alignment
- Plate 4 Site 17 a mine with circular structure
- Plate 5 Site 19 probable tramway
- Plate 6 Site 22 inclined trackway



Plate 1: Site 3, the stone 'circle' looking south-west



Plate 2: Site 5 a small cairn to the south-east of Site 4 - looking south-west



Plate 3: Site 26 a curved stone alignment looking south



Plate 4: Site 17, a mine with circular structure looking south-west



Plate 5: Site 19, probable tramway looking south-east



Plate 6: Site 23, an inclined trackway looking north-west