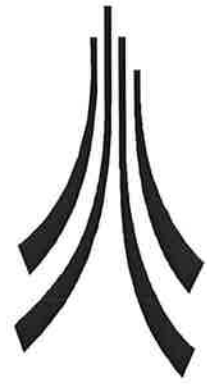


**LANCASTER**  
UNIVERSITY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
UNIT



April 1999

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**SIMONSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
LANDSCAPE PROJECT  
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Archaeological Survey Report**

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Commissioned by:

Northumberland National Park

# Simonside Archaeological Landscape Project Northumberland

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## Archaeological Survey Report

Report no 1998-99/051/AUA7843

Checked by Project Manager. ..... Date
Passed for submission to client. ..... Date

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April 1999

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The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Richard Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine (LUAU) and Peter Carne (ASUD).

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## SUMMARY

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The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) and Archaeological Services University of Durham (ASUD), at the request of the Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA), undertook a survey of Forest Enterprise-owned land at Simonside, Rothbury, Northumberland between October 1998 and November 1999.

The survey comprised an initial desktop study which assimilated the results of all archaeological work undertaken in the area to date and examined available cartographic records. These sources identified a series of possible sites within the study area, which were examined in the course of the fieldwork programme.

The fieldwork comprised a survey of 4.3 sqkm of conifer plantation and moorland, principally on the northern side of Simonside Hill. The survey drawings were generated within a Computer Aided Draughting (CAD) system and were combined with Ordnance Survey digital topographic detail supplied under licence by NNPA. A gazetteer of all archaeological sites was compiled within a database format.

A total of 72 monuments were identified, ranging in period from the Bronze Age to the nineteenth century. The findings identified a small range of monuments, largely relating to Bronze Age burial cairns and medieval/post-medieval upland agriculture. Probably the most significant class of monument were round cairns, which were distributed either within alignments, as on the north-western side of Spital Hill, or as isolated cairns in prominent locations. A number of the cairns had previously been excavated by Lord Armstrong, assisted by Dippie Dixon, in the nineteenth century. Some of these excavations were published, but the present survey demonstrated that a much greater number of cairns had in actuality been subject to antiquarian disturbance, and that in some cases these excavations had exposed the central cist.

Hollow ways formed a significant group of features within the survey. Although they were largely obscured by plantation, which prevented detailed survey in those areas, a distinct pattern was discerned which indicates that the western side of Spital Hill and the col between Simonside Hill and Ravensheugh, was a significant way in earlier periods. The importance of the route and that via Lordenshaws is also highlighted by the documentary evidence.

A phenomenological study was undertaken of the site, in order to investigate the significance that the Simonside Hills had for the local prehistoric communities. The study examined the saliency of principal topographic features, by recording the impressions of teams of students. The study was limited by the forestry restricting the vistas from the features. However, the preliminary results indicated that the principal criteria for salience were: Size of outcrop; presence of unusual shapes; presence of rock basins and presence of unusual linear markings. The relationship of the cairns with salient topographic features was found to be variable; some being directly associated while many others were more remote from salient features.

The significance of the present survey is that it has recorded a number of important Bronze Age funerary monuments, which have not been buried or destroyed by later plantation; such a grouping is relatively rare and they have not been adequately recorded in the past. The survey will serve as the basis for the establishment, by the NNPA and Forest Enterprise, of a heritage trail for the area which will for the conservation and presentation to the public of this important relict landscape.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) and the Archaeological Services University of Durham (ASUD) undertook a programme of survey work at Simonside Hill during November 1998, at the request of, and according to a brief (*Appendix 1*) supplied by, the Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA). The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design compiled by LUAU and ASUD (*Appendix 2*) and it was funded by NNPA with grant aid from the European Rural Development Fund. The study area comprised 4.3 sqkm of largely forested land, with some open moorland, situated on the south side of the Coquet valley within the environs of Simonside Hill (centred NZ 990030). The land is predominantly within the ownership of the Armstrong family, and leased to Forest Enterprise, although a small area of land and plantation at the north-east part of the survey area is owned by the Duke of Northumberland.

### 1.2 PROJECT AIMS

1.2.1 The prime purpose of the survey was to undertake a thorough archaeological survey of Simonside Hill and its environs, and to present a comprehensive account of its history from the earliest times through until the present day. This involved the identification, evaluation, and detailed recording of individual archaeological sites within the survey area. In addition, the project involved the formulation of recommendations for future management and interpretation strategies for the archaeological sites recorded during the survey.

1.2.2 A documentary study was undertaken in order to establish a history of land use and exploitation within the survey area, and to collate the results of all archaeological investigations undertaken to date. This examined primary documentary and cartographic sources, secondary published accounts and also aerial photographic coverage for the survey area. A field survey was undertaken to examine the extant physical evidence of prehistoric and historic activity, and maximised the available documentary information.

1.2.3 Following the collation of the results of the fieldwork and documentary study, Simonside Hill was considered within the context of current conceptual research into the significance of such landscape features amongst comparative prehistoric communities from around the world. Particular emphasis has been placed on ethnographic parallels and recent phenomenological research. This examined the ritual significance of Simonside and considers the possibility that it has been considered as a sacred mountain by the prehistoric and to a lesser extent historic communities of the region.

1.2.4 This report sets out the survey results, which is complemented by survey maps, a gazetteer of sites, both new to the record and formerly known, and a bibliography. The report outlines the archaeological significance of the area and also assesses the significance and function of the hill within the context of prehistoric communities.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The survey was carried out in accordance with a project design (*Appendix 2*) prepared by LUAU and ASUD and submitted to the Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) in September 1998. The project design was prepared in response to a brief (*Appendix 1*) produced by NNPA.
- 2.1.2 The survey consisted of three main elements, a desk-top study, a field survey and an assessment of the ritual significance. The desk-top study was intended to provide an historical background to the study and to inform both the field based study and the assessment of ritual significance. This was followed by a systematic topographic survey of the study area in order that the character and extent of the existing archaeological resource be recorded. Following the completion of the survey an assessment of the phenomological importance of the area was undertaken in conjunction with a general photographic survey and the generation of digital terrain mapping of the topography.

### 2.2 DESK-TOP SURVEY

- 2.2.1 The documentary research was primarily targeted at the rapid identification of sites, or possible sites, of archaeological or historical importance, of all periods, and setting them in their historical context. The documentary research covered the entire 4.3km<sup>2</sup> of the estate, and also immediately peripheral areas. In order to obtain the maximum level of information in the shortest period of time, the study was targeted on sources which would be able to enhance site identification. In particular the principal source was the authoritative work of David Dippie Dixon (1903), which borrows heavily from the earlier work of the Rev John Hodgson (1823).
- 2.2.2 **Archives:** collection of sources for the documentary research was from the following archives:
- Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (NSMR),
  - National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon, (maintained by RCHM(E)),
  - Northumberland Record Office (Gosforth and Morpeth),
  - Black Gate Library, Newcastlen (includes the Jobey Archive and the Dippie Dixon collection),
  - Newcastle and Durham University Libraries,
  - Durham University Department of Archaeology local information room,
  - Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography,
  - Alnwick Museum of Antiquities,
  - Newcastle Museum of Antiquities,
  - Forest Enterprise,
  - Coquetdale Arts Centre, Rothbury

- 2.2.3 **Cartographic evidence:** the early published maps by Saxton (1576)(BM Maps C761), Speed (1610), Armstrong (1769), Fryer (1820), and Greenwood (1828) all show some topographical features and place-names, but are at too small a scale to add new information. Detailed manuscript maps are typically rare and the earliest map which shows any amount of detail is Mayson's Survey of the Duke of Northumberland's Land dating from 1624 (AC 1624), which contains information on boundaries, land use and other specific features.
- 2.2.4 The study area is divided between the Baronies of Hepple and Rothbury. From the Barony of Rothbury, the townships of Hollinghill and Newtown fall within the project area; as does the township of Tosson, from the barony of Hepple. The tithe maps for these areas (Hollinghill: NRO (MP) DT253L, 1844; Newtown: NRO (MP) DT352/M 1844; Tosson NRO (MP) DT405/1, 1840) provide information on boundaries and land use, and indicate some other specific features. An enclosure map and award on the division of Tosson Common, otherwise known as Hepple Common, and dated 1806 (NRO(M)QRD7), covers much of the survey area and includes a number of significant field boundaries and other features. The enclosure of Rothbury manor was conducted piecemeal and no comparative enclosure map, covering the remainder of the study area, survives.
- 2.2.5 The first edition (OS 1867), second edition (OS 1899), and third edition (OS 1926) Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile maps and, where published and available, the 1:2,500 series of 1867 and 1899, were studied during the desk-study and the results used to inform the field survey. Where possible copies were made of these and other maps consulted, and are retained within the archive.
- 2.2.6 **Aerial photographic evidence:** vertical and oblique cover searches of a 12km<sup>2</sup> area around Simonside were obtained from the National Monuments Record, Swindon. A total of 65 oblique prints in this area were identified, all (within the project area) dating from the late 1980's and early 1990's (mostly taken by Tim Gates). Twelve sorties of vertical prints were also listed from the same area, of which 13 prints were selected for copying, covering aspects of the study area and were taken before commercial planting by the Forestry Commission. An aerial photograph was also obtained from the Forestry Commission, dated June 1948, which was not recorded by the NMR. Searches were also conducted at the Museum of Antiquities at Newcastle and the University of Cambridge Committee for Aerial photography; additional oblique and vertical photographs were noted which post-date the forestry plantation.
- 2.2.7 **Documentary sources:** with the exception of *The bounds of Rothbury Manor* (AC 1622) and several maps (and accompanying documents), information was accessed from secondary sources. No paper archive relating to the works of Dippie Dixon was identified, although a number of nineteenth century finds from his excavations were located at the Museums of Antiquities at Newcastle and Alnwick. Although the history of land ownership in particular would appear readily accessible through secondary sources, additional sources may be held at Alnwick Castle which have not been identified.
- 2.2.8 There are relatively few surviving estate records for this general area. The major part of the survey area, formerly divided by an ancient boundary, was united by Lord Armstrong in 1883 as part of his Cragside Estate. However, when The National Trust acquired Cragside earlier this century, to offset death duties, the

estate is believed to have destroyed many estate documents in a 'fit of pique'. With the exception of Mayson's survey no estate records are held at Alnwick Castle.

- 2.2.9 **Family papers:** a rapid assessments of the manuscript catalogues at NRO did not reveal any documents which relate to the survey area. A number of landowners, such as the Duke of Portland, however, held extensive estates across the country and it is possible that records exist outside Northumberland.
- 2.2.10 **Artefactual Material:** several artefacts originating in the Simonside hills have been identified in the Museum of Antiquities in Newcastle and at Alnwick Castle. Two bronze swords discovered at Simonside in 1868 are held by Alnwick Castle Museum (Cat. 230/31), though these are currently on loan to the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham. In addition, a bronze socketed spear found near Great Tosson has been traced to the British Museum. The history of some of these artefacts is recorded by Dixon (1903).
- 2.2.11 **Oral Evidence:** several individuals with both local knowledge, and photographs of Simonside have been consulted during the desk top study. The use of oral tradition in Coquetdale should, however, be treated with some caution. As Philipson noted (1989, 13), every inhabitant of Coquetdale has read Dixon (1903) so that when one asks a question the reply tends to come straight from Dixon, and there is also a tendency for enquirers to come away with the answer they are seeking. Philipson concluded that:

*'Upper Coquetdale has been trodden and re-trodden by too many people who know the documentary sources to be safe ground for the use of oral tradition'.*

## 2.3 X-RADIOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1 X-radiography was undertaken on the swords in order to establish any constructional detail. Sampling of the swords was not possible and their length allowed only the tip fragment of the near complete sword to be analysed. This was analysed using EDXRF, the equipment consisting of a Links Systems XR200 energy dispersive spectrometer employing a Rhodium anode X-ray tube. The analysis was undertaken at an X-ray tube operating voltage of 50kV using a 1mm diameter collimator to limit the size of the primary X-ray beam. This allowed for maximum sample area excitation. A copper filter was used to optimise the conditions for the detection of the elements antimony, silver and tin, and to suppress the energy lines from the Rhodium anode X-ray tube. The analysis was undertaken for the following 8 elements: copper (Cu), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), nickel (Ni), zinc (Zn) and silver (Ag). The system was calibrated using a full suit of single element standards, supplemented by a multi-element standard with a composition typical of a Late Bronze Age alloy. The Fundamental Parameters Model (Sparks 1976) was used to correct for matrix effects. This combination of standards and correction model provided a relative error of approximately 1%.

## 2.4 FIELD SURVEY

- 2.4.1 A level 2a upland survey was undertaken by experienced survey staff within the study area (Fig 5). A level 2a survey defines the extent of all surface archaeological features, in relation to the main topographic elements, and plots the extent of each archaeological site. It is a baseline management survey undertaken to locate a site and assess its archaeological significance and serves as the basic framework behind proposals for the archaeological management of the landscape.
- 2.4.2 The archaeological monuments were located by systematic ground reconnaissance and traverses were adjusted to take account of the level of visibility or ground conditions and included visual inspection of the wider area in order to maintain an overview of the landscape. It was discovered that significant blocks of land within the study area were inaccessible because of extremely dense, unthinned tree cover. The areas of exclusion and the limits of the study area are shown on Fig 4.
- 2.4.3 Site specific searches were made for monuments recorded during previous archaeological work in the study area and of those sites identified from the SMR/NMR record. Only where such monuments were encountered was an independent gazetteer entry made; a small number of these sites could not be identified on the ground and are discussed separately below.
- 2.4.4 The control for the survey was established by the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) which uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid. The accuracy of the method is normally +/- 1.0m which is adequate for the general location of the sites. In this instance, however, overall accuracy of site location was reduced by the density of plantation and the topography of Simonside itself, giving an eventual accuracy of +/- 5m. All the internal survey control within each survey group was undertaken using a total station and was able to maintain an internal control accuracy of better than +/- 0.05m.
- 2.4.5 The archaeological detail and significant topographic detail was surveyed using a Zeiss ELTA 3 total station and data-logger. The digital survey data was transferred, via DXF file format, into a CAD system (FastCAD). The archaeological detail was drawn up in the field with respect to field plots of the survey data and these edits were then transferred onto the raw survey data within the CAD system. The archaeological digital data was subsequently superimposed onto base 1:10,000 digital topographic data supplied by NNPA under licence from the Ordnance Survey.

## 2.5 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.5.1 A full photographic archive was generated during the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. The detailed photography was undertaken as part of the main field survey by the LUAU field team and involved the recording of the individual monuments. The landscape photography was carried out as a separate programme by the ASUD team:
- 2.5.2 **Landscape Photography:** the landscape photography was undertaken from around the study area and from the top of the Simonside ridge. The viewpoints were recorded on maps to enable repeat photography, so that the photographs

could be taken at different times under varying conditions. The emphasis of the recording was on presenting views of the Simonside from different locales, in order to establish the visual impact of the range upon the perception of present and earlier populations. To this end a video camera was used to provide a dynamic visual reference, and as such provides a more true to life visual perspective of the hill.

- 2.5.3 The still photography was recorded on photographic *pro-forma* sheets which show the subject, orientation and date. Photography was for the most part undertaken using 35mm cameras and with both colour print and black and white film. A digital camera was also used for detailed shots and the majority of the images presented within the present report were taken using that format. The photographic material, both video footage and still elements, have been incorporated within the archive and only a very selective sample is presented in within the present report.

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## 3. PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 LOCATION

- 3.1.1 The study area lies above the south side of the River Coquet, south-west of Rothbury, in the county of Northumberland. The land is owned and managed by Forest Enterprise, although the shooting and mineral rights are retained by the Armstrong Estate, and it lies wholly within the Northumberland National Park. It is popular with walkers and includes a car park and picnic site in the north-east part of the survey area.
- 3.1.2 The survey area covers approximately 4.3 sqkm rising from 200m near Great Tosson in the north to 430m at the summit of Simonside Hill. To the south the survey area encompasses the lofty crags of Simonside Hill and extends south to Croppy's Hole and the Ousen Burn, Dove Crag to the east and the Main or Mere Stone to the west. Northwards the ground falls steeply to the east and west, whilst in the central area a series of flat terraces step down to the village of Great Tosson.

### 3.2 GEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The solid geology underlying the survey area, as published by the British Geological Survey (1934), comprises Tuedian strata of the Lower Carboniferous. The most significant of these is the Fell Sandstone Group whose beds outcrop across almost the entirety of the survey area. The Fell Sandstone Group reach up to 1000 feet in thickness, rising to 429m (Simonside) and 441m (Tosson Hill), caused by displacement by the downthrow of the Swindon and Chartners faults; they are distinctive enough to have become known as the 'Simonside Grits'. A quartz dolerite dyke passes through Weather Hill and through Tosson. Although the sandstone is no longer an economically viable building stone it has been widely quarried in the past for buildings as far away as Edinburgh and Coventry Cathedral (White 1973, 27). Despite the abundance of surface stone and suitable outcrops at Simonside, only one fairly limited area of quarrying has been identified within the survey area (30). The Fell Sandstone overlies Cementstone Group strata which in places is 600 feet thick; this group consists of coastal alluvial sandstones and fluvio-lacustrine interchannel siltstones, mudstones and cementstones (impure limestones) with occasional limestones (Taylor *et al* 1971; Turner and Heard 1995, 106). Within the survey area, however, these beds are only exposed in the steep sides of the Cheslop Burn, in the rectangular plantation at the extreme north-western corner of the survey area, and in a narrow band running parallel with the modern road near the car park, where the junction is caused by the throw of a west-north-west/east-south-east fault.

### 3.3 GEOMORPHOLOGY

- 3.3.1 The Fell Sandstone Group determines the form of the topography and is characterised by a series of flat-topped hills which almost completely divide the Northumberland coast from the Cheviot range. The valley of the River Coquet, near Simonside, is one of only two places where it has been breached by river action, a process made more easy by the profusion of faults in the area. The Fell

Sandstone is relatively porous and at the junction with the Cementstone Group this is expressed by the emergence of springs, a number of which fall within the survey area.

- 3.3.2 The hills have been affected by glacial sheet ice particularly during the maximum advance in the lower part of the Devensian (King 1976, 87), however, the Cheviot Hills generated enough local ice to prevent the area being totally overrun by ice from further north. This, combined with the fact that the period during which land above 300m was covered by ice was probably fairly short, means that glacial erosion in the area is limited (King 1976, 86 and 105-6). There is a distribution of erratics along the sides of Simonside up to the summit, and a redistribution of different rock types from adjoining areas. Crifel granite, silurian grits, and St. Bee's group sandstone boulders from the far west have been deposited at the west end of the range, at the head of the Darden Burn valley.

### 3.4 PEDOLOGY

- 3.4.1 There is peat coverage over the ridge tops, which is in places over 1m deep (identified by probing). Peat coring immediately to the south of Beacon Hill within Caudhole Moss indicates peat presence to a depth of 10m. Peaty topsoil becomes more common with an increase in altitude. The Carboniferous rocks of the area are covered by the soils of the Anglezarke [631a] and Belmont [651a] Associations (Jarvis *et al.* 1984, 95-110) and are characterised by the slightly stony sandy loams of the Belmont and the Anglezarke series and the sandy loam of the Revidge series. The latter two, dark reddish brown in colour, are found on the drier upper slopes and the steeper gradients respectively, whilst the greyish brown Belmont soils are found on the lower slopes.

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## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 Most of the archaeological investigation that has previously been undertaken was carried out before the second world war and very little work has been undertaken subsequently. Whilst extensive survey works have been carried out in the Northumberland uplands by the Royal Commission (for example, their unpublished survey of the Upper Breamish Valley) and intensive surveys have been conducted in specific areas (for example, Topping's work on Garleigh Moor on the edge of the survey area (Topping 1993)), and an increasing amount of commercially sponsored- contractual work has taken place in recent years, huge tracts of the uplands remain unsurveyed. Within the Simonside Hills the last major programme of archaeological investigation was conducted at the turn of the century and instigated by Lord Armstrong (Dixon 1903). Whilst the results have been published and are widely available, no further works appear to have been conducted until the instigation of the present project, mainly because the extensive tree cover has restricted archaeological activity. Indeed, Jobey notes on his Ordnance Survey quarter sheet map of the area (Jobey Collection, Black Gate Library) that the cairns on Spital Hill were lost in plantation. The prominent cairns on the Summit of Simonside he notes are of the 'ridge-type' referred to in the Roxburghshire Inventory (RCHMS 1956, 13) and a ring cairn on the western side of Beacon Hill is noted as 'surveyed'.
- 4.1.2 Preliminary pollen analysis has been conducted on a core taken from Caudhole Moss, immediately to the south of Beacon Hill (Manning 1996). The moss had a depth of 10.2m, and is large enough to have a catchment area of several km. Analysis was evaluative, samples were collected at 0.32m intervals, and only one radio-carbon date was available. While this is insufficient to generate a detailed history of any particular period, it does suggest that an initial small scale clearance for agriculture was followed by a period of stability. There was then a period of substantial expansion of agriculture (sometime following 7000BP) followed by a period of woodland regeneration. A further limited agricultural expansion was followed by a major period of clearance of the remaining woodland which created the open landscape of recent times (until modern afforestation). The clearance periods have implications for our knowledge of the expansion of the population within the surrounding area.

### 4.2 PLACE NAMES

- 4.2.1 A series of features and areas within the landscape have acquired names at some point, and these have been collated. The name Simonside itself appears on most maps, referring either to the whole of the upper ridge or to Simonside Crag itself. The earliest mention (Simundessete) is in the Assize Roll for Northumberland, 7th year of Edward 1 - 1279):

And concerning this, because it ought (sending) Simon Smert and Benedict Gley at Simonside, beyond his (their?) commanded liberty to (.....) when ? John, tester, which the said committed prisoners escaped (in) freedom.... and whose head was carried back to Harbottle and the same was commanded to be hung from the gibbet as an example... of our lord the King, as it was said. (Surtees Society 1891, 372).



- 4.2.2 The name has been taken by some to mean Simon's (or Sigmund's) Saetre (or shieling), and Tomlinson (1916, 336) proposes that this is the '*Simon of mythology [who] was, it seems a domestic brewer to King Arthur, identical with the German Sigmund, and very fond of killing dragons.*' Although brewing was common in the area during the post-medieval period, this would appear to be a Victorian association, and no Sir Simon has been identified in Arthurian legend (V M Pickin, pers comm.).
- 4.2.3 An alternative interpretation of the name, however, may perhaps lie in the topography of Simonside itself. The earliest written form of the name, *Simundessete*, can be broken into three distinct elements: *si*, *mundes*, and *sete*. The middle element is clearly 'mount' deriving from the Old Norse *mund* or the Old English (OE) *munt*, and literally meaning mountain (Watson 1970, 58). The first element *si* may derive from *sid* (OE) meaning broad, spacious. The last element *sete* may derive from the (OE) *set* meanings either a stall for livestock, or again 'saetre' meaning transhumant settlement (Sweet 1896, 153), and thus translating into 'the broad mountain where the livestock are kept', or 'the broad mountain shieling'. The former may be particularly significant given the references to the Aad Stells by Dixon (1892, 26), tentatively identified as sites (55) and (56). A further interpretation of the last element is *sith* or *seth*, meaning road (Sweet 1896, 155). This gives 'broad mountain road' or 'the road by the broad mountain' and may possibly refer to the route over Simonside or the route around Simonside via Lordenshaws. It has also been translated as "the great mountain road" (Anon 1885, 3).
- 4.2.4 Unlike neighbouring Redesdale, Celtic place names are rare in Coquetdale. An example may be found, however, in the Ousen Burn which Breeze, in an account of the origin of the place name Ouse Burn tributary of the Tyne at Newcastle convincingly attributes to the Celtic *ias* giving the Welsh *iesin*, meaning 'fine, fair, beautiful, handsome; radiant, sparkling, shimmering, bright, gleaming' (Breeze 1998, 57). The Anglo-Saxon colonists did, however, recognise earlier settlement in many of their place names as in the case of the univalate settlement of Tosson Burgh, otherwise known as Burgh Camp, which literally means fortified place (OE *burg*, *burh*), whilst place names in Northumberland which include *camp* usually indicate the location of a Celtic settlement (Watson 1970, 21). The *burg* element is also used to refer to late English fortifications as in Rothbury (Routhebiria in 1125), which derives from *Hrotha's burg* (Beckensall 1975, 41; Watson 1970, 34). Similarly the *Chester* element in Chesterhope Burn, which derives from the Old English *ceaster* from the Latin *castra*, may again relate to Tosson Burgh which lies above the east side of the burn.
- 4.2.5 Most other early settlement names of relevance to the survey area derive from Old English such as Hepple (*heop-halh*) which means the valley or haugh where hips, or dogroses, are found and Tosson (*tot-stan*) meaning look-out stone.
- 4.2.6 The *spital* place name element, which occurs in Spital Hill, is usually attributed to the site of a medieval hospital or, as in this case, to the land granted for its support. The hospital in question was the Hospital of St Leonard situated at Allerdene, also known as Ryehill Spittle, which is first mentioned in 1281. It was set up for the benefit of travellers and, with the hospital for travellers established at Wreighburn House, Thropton, by the Knights Hospitallers (Dixon 1903, 457), underlines the importance of the road network in Upper Coquetdale, and indeed across and around Simonside. The name Allerdene may originate in Ancroft

parish near Etal where there was also a hospital for travellers at Allerdene. In 1354 Robertus de Maners owned Etal and lands at Tosson (Dixon 1903, 134), though the date in which the two lands became connected under single ownership is not known. The hospital is unlikely to have survived the Black Death in the mid-fourteenth century, a time when travellers were no longer welcome, and it is possible that at this time the lands passed to the keeping of the church at Ancroft. It is significant that the parish of Ancroft is recorded in the enclosure award in 1806 and the later tithe apportionment. Today, the connection between Ancroft and Simonside is fossilised in the name of the eastern farm at Great Tosson, which continues to be called The Glebe.

- 4.2.7 Whilst most of the early place names can be seen to derive from Old English, Watson notes (1970, 34) that there are names in the Rothbury district which appear to be Scandinavian, such as Trewhitt which means a clearing amongst the trees. The first element in this name is also found in Jabel Trew, situated to the west of the survey area. Scandinavian influence in the place names, as well as with settlement, however, appears to be largely absent from other areas of the county.
- 4.2.8 A rock formation on the south of the area called Selby's Cove is allegedly named after Sir Walter Selby (of Bridleston), who became a bandit and purportedly hid from pursuers at Selby's Cove; he was later killed by David the Second in 1342 (Honeyman 1949, 62). This documented incident may be the route of Dixon's reference to the '*Coquetdale moss trooper named Selby who had his retreat here in the old border days*' (Dixon 1903, 483).

### 4.3 NEOLITHIC / BRONZE AGE

- 4.3.1 Evidence for the earlier prehistoric periods within the project area is limited, although this may partly reflect the lack of intensive fieldwork (*Section 4.1*). In addition to the restrictions of tree cover, partial peat coverage over the upper ridges of the hills may have masked some archaeological features, however, the majority of the cover is thin, and there are numerous areas where peat cuttings have taken place, which have exposed rocks and topographical features that would otherwise have been obscured. The restrictions of surface survey in this respect are becoming widely acknowledged (Topping 1998).
- 4.3.2 Examples of rock art exist within the vicinity, most notably at Lordenshaws (Beckensall 1983), for which Bronze Age and Neolithic dates have been proposed. Several rock shelter sites have also been identified within the project area, some of which have been used in recent years, and in the case of the Ousen House (45) at least in the post-medieval period. There is the possibility, although unconfirmed, that these may also have been exploited in earlier, perhaps prehistoric, periods. Mesolithic activity has been identified at comparable rock shelter sites elsewhere in Northumberland, such as Goatscrag, Corby Crag and Bowden Doors (Burgess 1972; Weyman 1984, 40), but confirmation of prehistoric occupation of those on Simonside would require more invasive methods of investigation.
- 4.3.3 There is extensive evidence of Bronze Age activity within the area in the form of funerary monuments and chance finds. Two amber 'amulets' or 'belt fittings' were found during the nineteenth century on Simonside by workmen cutting

drains for a nineteenth century plantation, probably on Spital Hill (Cowen 1966, 217-8) and their nearest parallels are in Jutland. A bronze palstave was also recovered from the Long Plantation in the vicinity of Tosson Burgh during the nineteenth century (Dixon 1903, 132). In addition, two bronze swords, rings, and several other articles were found in 1868 by Mr Ashton of Tosson Mill, beneath two rocks located between the Cockpit Well and Cowet Well, and above the presumed Romano-British rectilinear enclosure (Scott 1885, 42) (*Section 4.9*).

- 4.3.4 There are several cairns within the project area which were subject to investigation during the nineteenth century (*Section 5*). The distribution of cairns continues throughout the Simonside Hills, and across the hills on either side of Coquetdale. Greenwell was involved in the excavation of burial mounds in the Parish of Rothbury (Greenwell 1877), and records the excavation of cists which lay within the bounds of the limestone quarry to the north-west of the project area (Scott 1885, 42). He implies that many barrows had already been disturbed prior to his own investigations. This is confirmed by Scott (1885, 42) who notes that they were opened by quarrymen, presumably when removing overburden from the working face. The quarry, which includes a fine lime kiln, lies to north-north-west of Great Tosson and exploits an outcrop of Cementstone Group limestone which would formerly have formed a prominent ridge or step in the hillslope. Four 'cist-vaens' were opened, each containing a crouched inhumation. One of the skulls was examined by Dr Bernard Davies who declared it to be '*one of the typical series of ancient British crania*'. Three urns, a bronze buckle and circular ornaments made of jet, about the size of a crown piece, were also recovered, together with an iron weapon suggesting re-use for burial in a later period (Scott 1885, 42).
- 4.3.5 A series of excavations were undertaken on Spital Hill and above the Chesterhope Burn by Lord Armstrong, Dixon, Hedley, the Reverend Smith and Bertram (Armstrong's Agent) in various combinations between 1889 and 1891, following the discovery of fragments of a cinerary urn during the excavation of drains for Lord Armstrong's plantation (Dixon 1903). Where the descriptions of the cairns can be positively linked to extant features they are referred to the survey results below. Dixon's accounts, however, contain significant errors regarding the relationship of cairns to the contouring of the hillside, in the relative distances and compass directions between cairns, and also in the alignment of cists. Since in most cases it has not been possible to securely locate individual cairns from his description, the accuracy of his account should be treated with caution. Dixon records the excavation of ten cairns which were generally found to contain at least one cist, and often two. Both inhumation and cremation burial practices were encountered. It should be noted that, leaving the Simonside ridge cairns aside, the survey has identified thirteen cairns with evidence of disturbance, and given that at least one of Dixon's cairns could not be located. This totals at least four excavations more than Dixon describes (1892; 1903) and may indicate additional unrecorded excavations by Dixon *et al* or persons unknown.

#### 4.4 IRON AGE / ROMAN

- 4.4.1 During the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods there is considerable evidence for settlement, and *de facto* land use, within the broader environs of the Simonside Hills. There are two major curvilinear enclosed settlements very close

by, at Tosson Burgh (NU 023 005) and at Lordenshaws (NZ 054 993). Tosson Burgh (Hedley 1892, 33-6) to the north-west of the project area, occupies a prominent knoll overlooking the Coquet Valley; it is a univallate type of hillfort with no visible traces of internal occupation features, and is considered to be of Iron Age date. Lordenshaws has been surveyed recently by the Royal Commission, and is a multivallate hillfort with many internal features, and evidence for different phases of occupation (Topping 1993). Other important hillforts include Old Rothbury (NU 046 019) on the north side of the River Coquet and West Hills (NU 038 021). In addition, defended settlements are recorded to the east on the Coquet at Brinkburn (NU 118 984), to the west at Harehaugh (NY 970 998) and at Withy Neuk (NY 983 994) (Jobey 1965, 60-64).

- 4.4.2 The lack of a direct association with settlement on the Simonside range itself, however, contrasts with the evidence of extensive settlement occupation that has been identified over similar rocky sites in Northumberland, often with associated, extensive Bronze Age burial, such as at Murton High Crag (Jobey *et al* 1987). A small rectangular earthwork ditch and rampart enclosing an area of 0.5 acres, with an entrance on the east side, exists immediately to the north of the project area (NZ 0315 0004) (Jobey 1960). No excavations have taken place within the enclosure, but it appears on the surface to be a typical rectilinear farmstead settlement of Romano-British date, which would have exploited the lower slopes of the hills. Other earthworks in the area are labelled on the 1844 tithe map of Newtown as abandoned farmsteads; they are shown as earthworks and are labelled 'camp', so there was the perception of an earlier date at that time.
- 4.4.3 A number of hollow ways (droveways) cross the hills, and although the creation of these features is largely attributed to the post-medieval period, a prehistoric date for two of these hollow ways on Garleigh Moor been suggested on the basis of surface stratification and the relationship with the nearby Lordenshaws enclosure (Topping 1993), and more widely by their position relative to monuments of prehistoric date (Newbiggin 1930).

## 4.5 EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 4.5.1 As is common throughout most of Northumberland, there is a lack of sites in the area that are demonstrably of early medieval date, partly because of an absence of documentation compared to the later medieval period. In addition the lack of a recovered dateable material culture means that it is rarely possible to show continuity of settlement occupation from later Roman sites, although there are often pointers to Saxon activity within the landscape from place name evidence. The reuse of ritual monuments of prehistoric date is well attested, for example at Millfield (eg. Scull and Harding 1990), and this includes cairns found within the uplands of Northumberland (Adams 1996). An Anglo-Saxon spearhead and buckle, an iron bridle bit and a pair of shears were found within a bronze age cist in the quarry to the north-west of Tosson Burgh, indicating re-use (Rahtz *et al* 1980). An Anglo-Saxon community is indicated at Rothbury on place name evidence, as outlined above, moreover there used to be a fine late Saxon red sandstone cross standing within the town. The manor of Rothbury itself appears to have been held directly by the King following the Conquest (and is mentioned in a grant of 1205), but, as is often the case, there is a possibility that the estate

was pre-conquest in origin. Dixon speculates that the boundaries to the townships were potentially pre-Norman in origin (1903, 366).

## 4.6 MEDIEVAL

4.6.1 Whilst references to land holdings and boundaries are most common during the post-medieval era, their existence in the medieval period is not in doubt, and there are several references to places within the Pipe Rolls. The project area falls within the Baronies (Manors) of Hepple and of Rothbury, the earliest account of a physical boundary being given in 1580 (*Section 4.7.6*). The Manor of Rothbury is mentioned in 1205, and Hepple in 1199; the two appear always to have been separate. In 1265, Rothbury is part of the Barony of Ralph Fitz Roger (later taking the name Clavinger after their Essex estate), and Hepple Barony is held direct from the king; these are the only two manors in the parish of Rothbury having their own gallows, an assize of ale and bread, and capital rights. Simonside is pivotal to the township and barony divisions and appears in post-medieval documentation as common land, this is also likely to have been the case in the medieval period, particularly as the slopes are recorded as common pasture as early as 1553 (Dodds 1940, 337).

4.6.2 Hepple included the township of Tosson, which is first mentioned in 1203, covering the western part of the project area. In 1553 the hospital farm (The Glebe) is recorded as including the common of pasture on Simonside, and this may relate to Spital Hill. Hepple and Tosson are variously owned into the post-medieval period by a variety of Hepples, Ogles and Tailbois, which may be summarised thus (after Dixon 1903):

1204: Huphal and Tosson, held by William Bardulf

1206: Hepple held by William Bardolph and Ivo Tailbois

1279: Robertus Taylleboys owns Hephale Maner and Tossam Villa.

1290: Lucas Tayleboys and Rics. Chartenay are 'connected' with Hepple Barony.

1332: Robert de Heppale owns some of Great and Little Tosson.

1337: Henry Tailbois holds 200 acres in Tosson Magna in 1337.

1354: A 'robertus de Maners holds landsa in hethpole, tossan and almwick'.

1362-4: Robert de Ogle holds land in Hepple (incl. Tosson Magna), as does Henry Tailbois.

1368: Henry Tailbois holds part of the village of Tosson, with lands.

1415: Sir Robert Ogle holds the tower at Hepple. Ogle's lands in Hepple are noted as having been destroyed by the Scots in 1406, 1416 and 1436.

1436: The Tailbois family retains lands, which appear to be transferred to the Ogles after the War of the Roses. The Tailbois family held the right to the gallows and assisze under Edward I.

1437: Robert Ogle snr. owns land in Grt Tosson and Falowleys.

1568: Great and Little Tosson are owned by Lord Ogle.

1663: The Marquis of Newcastle (Sir William Cavendish, an Ogle), owns the barony, including Great Tosson and Tosson Mill, but Henry Rocharadson and Wm. Vrwen own Little Tosson and the Spittle.

4.6.3 The manor of Rothbury was held directly by the King in the twelfth century, who granted the manor and forest of Rothbury to Robert Fitz Roger, whose family

held the manor until they died out. The barony was subsequently granted to the Percy family in 1332. The manor includes the townships of Newtown and Hollinghill. Hollinghill is mentioned only rarely in post-medieval sources, referring only to a few small farmsteads. The Simonside ridge forms the formal northern boundary of this large township that incorporates large tracts of moorland. Newtown is first mentioned in 1205 and was a thriving township with a woollen mill in the post-medieval period. It also gives its name to Newtown park, a deer park first enclosed from the Forest of Rothbury in 1275. This is located immediately to the north of Beacon Hill and the substantial remains of its boundary are still extant (and Grade 1 listed). The loss of common grazing land as a result of this enclosure was a concern, and is mentioned in 1275; the Rector of Rothbury managed to get two gates established in the boundary in order that he could still drive his cattle across the area. This type of activity has resulted in the many droveways that head around and across the hills from the valley below, and this reference provides us with a medieval date for this activity. The 'hollow ways', most visible on aerial photographs, continued in use into the post-medieval period. (*Section 4.3*).

- 4.6.4 The township includes two enclosed medieval outlying farmsteads at the foot of the hills just outside the project area (these are shown as abandoned on the later tithe maps). There are several traces of ridge and furrow in the Newtown area of probable medieval date, as well as earthworks relating to the mill and an abandoned garth (NSMR NU00SW14). Topping (1993) records elements of the medieval field system around Lordenshaws, including boundaries and ridge and furrow post-dating the deer park, and which he argues may date from the later medieval period; these were abandoned before 1800.
- 4.6.5 During the medieval period, social and economic uncertainty, caused by the conflict between the two crowns, severely held back the development of the Borders. Characteristic of this period are the blood feuds, reiving and general lawlessness which, together with Border warfare, particularly from Edward I's reign onwards, led to the emergence of individual fortified houses, such as the tower-house at Great Tosson. The date of its foundation is not known, though it is not mentioned when the Ogles purchased the land in 1330 (Bates 1891, 392). Similarly it is omitted from the list of castles compiled for Henry V in 1415 (Rowland 1987,61). By 1541, however, it appears to have been in poor condition when it was described as '*not in good reparacions*' (Bates 1891, 392).
- 4.6.6 Cordons of beacons and watches along the hills and at strategic points within the valley are recorded in order to provide warning of the invasion of the Scots: the Beacon of Simonside was specifically erected for this purpose and a nightly watch kept in 1549 (Dixon 1903, 483: 160). The two cairns on Beacon Hill are also suitable for use as beacons (*Section 4.9.3*), and it is possible that the use of beacons on Simonside may predate the reiver period.
- 4.6.7 **Routeways:** although there is considerable evidence for the passage of main routes and droveways over Simonside in the post-medieval period (*Section 4.7.2*), there is a strong likelihood that these reflect ancient communication lines which would have extended back at least to the medieval period and probably earlier. While there is only superficial evidence for their usage in this period there is a reference to Thomas of Holm who, in 1290, escaped from Harbottle Castle to Alwinton church and, after confession, set out to leave the county but was pursued by two of Gilbert de Umfraville's men: they overtook him on Simonside,

beheaded him and brought back his head to set it up on Harbottle gallows (Honeymoon 1949). This would suggest that at that time it was a principal communication route.

#### 4.7 POST-MEDIEVAL

- 4.7.1 During the post-medieval period the settlement of the Border led to an increase in trade and prosperity, not least because of the rising price of wool. The availability of capital at this time is illustrated in the construction of defensible farm houses known as bastle houses. Although no bastle houses are to be found in the survey area they are numerous within Coquetdale, particularly in Rothbury Forest, eg Fallowlees.
- 4.7.2 **Droeways:** the use of the droeways across Simonside increased with the Union of the Crowns, as trade between the North and the South picked up. The trackways were brought to the attention of the antiquarian community by Newbigin (1930; 1931) and further discussed in the 1940's (Dodds 1940). Trackways were recorded from Tosson Brough up to Spital Hill, on to Little Church, and on to Bob Pyle's Studdie, converging with the Bridle Path on the west side of the Simonside Crag. Newbigin notes that they are found over the whole Simonside range (and further afield), but are most prominent on the northern (steeper) side, and being caused by erosion, are not as visible on flat ground. They are mostly in groups leading generally north/south, although there are some heading west/east, such as the group between Tosson to Lordenshaws, which then turns south over the lower slopes of Beacon Hill.
- 4.7.3 Dodds notes that from the seventeenth century onwards droves of cattle passed over the border from Scotland to Norfolk to be fattened up for the London market (1940, 305). He also points out that the drovers were men of ill repute who preferred the tax-avoiding higher moorland areas to drive their cattle across, and are known to have exploited the rock shelter sites along the road such as Ousen House (Dixon 1903). It is notable that the two routes, via Lordenshaws or via the neck of Simonside, pass through different ownerships (*Section 4.7.4*). Honeyman (1949, 166-7) states that the trackways were 'once an important highway of commerce trodden by strings of pack ponies and by droves of south-bound Scots cattle'. The shoeing of drovers cattle is also documented at Cambo (Bosanquet 1989, 180).
- 4.7.4 As well as a route for the drovers, the route between Tosson and Lordenshaws, which most commentators regard as ancient, is indicated on all maps consulted as part of a major route towards Cambo, Hexham, Newcastle and the south. A party of Roundheads rode down this road at great speed in 1644, taking by surprise the towerhouse at Great Tosson, occupied by Royalist Dragoons (Dixon 1903, 487). An additional major routeway leads across the neck of Simonside from Tosson towards Cambo, part of which survives today as a footpath. Fryer's map (1820) shows this route as the same size as the Lordenshaws road, although Armstrong's map (1769) doesn't show it at all. This route is recorded on Mayson's map (AC 1624), and is referred to as the Clattering Way. The enclosure award also refers to this route (when it may have been formalised) as belonging to the Township of Great Tosson, which was responsible for its upkeep to a

breadth of 6 feet. It is here called the Cambo Bridle Road and it *'begins at the south end of Great Tosson Lane and leading from thence Westward to the west side of the little Hill and from thence southward by the west side of Simonside to Browns Croft where the said bridle road enters the ancient lands of Spylaw belonging to his grace the Duke of Northumberland.'* The route deteriorated in importance into the twentieth century, and the construction of the forestry plantations in the study area and to the south around Harwood Forest have resulted in the rerouting of many tracks in the area. It remains, however, the only public right of way within the survey area.

4.7.5 There is some folklore about the use of the route for smuggling, particularly alcohol, if only because it provided a way up into the hills. The criss-cross marked stones along the path (Sites 48 and 49) are said to have been made to assist the laden ponies, whether illicit or otherwise. Dixon (1903, 279) states that during the early nineteenth century smuggling was carried on to a great extent in Upper Coquetdale, when scotch whisky was carried on horseback in kegs over the Cheviot hills. The area was also used for hiding numerous illicit stills amongst the ravines and hidden recesses of Simonside (1903, 323), which may have been the inspiration for the Tomlinson's story connecting Simonside with Arthur's Brewer (Section 4.2.2). In Cambo, there was a recollection (mid-nineteenth century) of taking salt and candles into the hills to avoid the excise men (Bosanquet 1989, 66).

4.7.6 **Boundaries:** The pattern of administrative organisation and agricultural practice continues into the post-medieval period. The earliest identified map of the study area (Mayson's survey (AC 1624)) illustrates the boundary between Rothbury and Hepple. The map records the location of several cairns, some of them along the route of the boundary (Sites 50, 61, 62 and 76), but also some to the west of here in Hepple. All boundaries on this and later maps are frequently punctuated by cairns and marker stones. The division runs between Tosson and Newton, following Routing Burn up past the west side of Simonside Hill, and across the moorland beyond along the route of the Cambo Bridle path. This route is described within *The Bounds of Rothbury Manor* (AC 1622), and is almost identical to a description of the route given in 1580, as *'walked and bounded by the men of Rothbury'*:

*'northwarde by the street called the Clatterandway, to another heap of stones called the Carne at the fowlegramehead, and so forth the same street on the west side of Simontside and so overthwarte still tending the north, to a brooke head called Rowton burne falling out of the said mountain of Simontsyde, and so northward down the said Brooke as it runneth between the Newtowne Milne, and a little beneath the said Milne of Tosson to the Milne called the Newtowne Milne...'. (Dodds 1940, 341).*

4.7.7 No further divisions are marked within the project area on the 1624 map: although the Manor of Rothbury included the townships of Newtown and Hollinghill, the Simonside area is marked as common land and may have been exploited by both. The sharing of resources, such as common land, is often reflected in boundaries radiating from a nodal point (Hoskins 1963; Winchester 1990). The Duke of Northumberland's land at Simonside is recorded as forming Spylaw Farm, a name retained on the enclosure map of 1806 (NRO (M) QRD7). The plan is most detailed in its illustration of the Newtown area, including the mills of Newtown and Tosson, which formed part of an important post-medieval



industry exploiting the extensive supply of wool from the surrounding farmland, the latter producing the once famous Tosson plaid.

- 4.7.8 In 1713 the ownership of Hepple passed by marriage from the Marquis of Newcastle to the second Earl of Oxford, and in 1724 a survey of the lands took place, including Simonside:

*'about a mile from Tosson Town is a very noted craggy Hill called Simonside, the perpendicular altitude of which from the level of the Coquet river being a three-quarter mile. Over the middle thereof goes the boundary of the commons [Tosson common] the contents of which are, according to the survey in 1724, 5661 acres.'*

- 4.7.9 The bounds are recorded again in 1790 (under the Duke of Portland), although the boundary had shifted from just west of Simonside Crag, to head over the ridge immediately to the east and down between Tosson and Newtown. This boundary is partly extant today as a fence line, and is marked by a boundary stone inscribed DP (Duke of Portland) and DN (Duke of Northumberland) and dated 1790.

- 4.7.10 The enclosure award for Tosson Common (NRO(M)QRD7) (also known as Hepple Common), dated 8th December 1806, leaves much of Simonside unenclosed, excepting elements of the lower slopes, which were purchased by Sir John Buchanan Riddell, who acquired more than 1500 acres in total. The largest single portion that Riddell took is Great Tosson Farm, comprising 773 acres, 0 roods and 16 perches. The farm is *'situated near several places called Cheslop Edge, Simonside, Weatherhead Cairn, Selby Sear, and Tosson Broad'*. Riddell also claimed Rye Hill Farm described as being situated on the *'west side of Cheslop Burn'*. Other individuals included in the agreement were Thomas Clennell Esq, John Robinson, Donkin and wife and Potts and wife. The document specifies the parties to *'therefore to make and erect and forever uphold maintain and repair good and sufficient bounder fences..'* The ownership of Great Tosson farm was transferred to William Orde of Nunnykirk in 1805, and subsequently to Lord Armstrong in 1883.

- 4.7.11 There is no comparable enclosure award for Rothbury, but Mackenzie (1825, 50) states that Rothbury Forest was all enclosed *'except a small part which joins the Simonside Hills on the south-east, and a ridge of hills on the north, but which afford pasturage for sheep'*. He also notes that the organisation of the agricultural system in Rothbury Forest is a surviving remnant of the feudal system (*ibid* Vol 2, 1; 52).

- 4.7.12 The tithe map of Newtown of 1844 demarcates its boundaries as following the boundary with Hepple to the west, and Coe Burn, leading up to Great Tosson Pike on Simonside Crag to the south-east. This boundary is still extant today, the area to the south of here belonging to Hollinghill. This is repeated on the Ordnance Survey mapping. However, the tithe map for Hollinghill shows its northern boundary running along the ridge between Beacon Hill and Simonside Crag. This map is also unusual in calling Old Stell Crag 'The Grey Crag', from the colour of the Fell Sandstone of the hill.

- 4.7.13 Apart from the exploitation of the area as pasture for sheep, the hills are exploited for several other purposes, although these appear subsidiary. Small-scale plantations around the edges of the hills took place during the nineteenth

century, the progress of which can be seen on the Ordnance Survey maps; Dixon records that these were instigated by Lord Armstrong (1903, 135) during the 1880's. The lower slopes at Lordenshaws continued to be cultivated in the post-medieval period; Topping (1993) records narrow rig over the broad rig which he dates to the eighteenth century.

#### 4.8 INDUSTRIES

- 4.8.1 One small-scale quarry has been identified within the survey area (30), presumably for building stone, for which no documentation has been identified. The remains of a lime kiln are visible to the north of Great Tosson (NSMR NU00SW64).
- 4.8.2 Dixon (1903, 488) mentions numerous traces of lead and iron workings in the beds of the streams on the south side of Simonside, on Lordenshaws hill, and up the Black burn, in the form of slag heaps. However, the nearest iron mining and smelting sites to the study area are on or close to the Scremerston Coal Group ironstone shales in Rothbury Forest, In particular these are concentrated on the Forest Burn to the south, Rimside Moor and Longframlington, all well outside the survey area.
- 4.8.3 Lead mining, although not occurring within the survey area, did occur within the broader environs of the Simonside range. At Fallowfield, to the south of Simonside, the remains of Redpath Mine can still be discerned. Although worked periodically in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was referred to by Wallis (1769, 121) and was known to the miners as '*the old man*', a term commonly used by miners to indicate earlier workings. A further lead mine was worked directly by Sir Edward Blackett above Whitton Dene in the eighteenth century (Smith 1923, 16).
- 4.8.4 Major peat cuttings are visible west of Beacon Hill on the top of the ridge, but small scale peat cuttings by individuals are frequently documented throughout Rothbury forest and the hills of Coquetdale into this century, as peat was a major source of domestic fuel.

#### 4.9 THE SIMONSIDe SWORDS

- 4.9.1 The famous group from Simonside consisted, when found in 1868, of two bronze swords (one fragmentary), two lead objects thought to be sword pommels, three bronze rings, two other pieces of bronze (perhaps the handle and blade of a knife) and a bone object (Arkle 1876, 176-77; Evans 1881, 285). The latter three are lost, but the swords, pommels and rings are in the Duke of Northumberland's collection in Alnwick Castle (Bruce 1880, 53).
- 4.9.2 The circumstances of the find suggest strongly that all the objects were associated. In 1868 children playing noticed the swords projecting from under a rock at the base of the moor between the Cockpit Well and Cowet Well, and above the rectilinear enclosure (Scott 1885, 42). Their father, Mr Ashton of Tosson Mill, later found the remainder of the objects by removing soil from around the rock, or from under a large stone (Dixon 1903, 131-2; Scott 1885, 42). It is impossible to pinpoint this spot exactly today, but it seems clear from the near-contemporary account (Arkle 1876) that the finds came from a small, closely

delimited area and not from a wider range of locations. It thus qualifies as a collective find or 'hoard'.

- 4.9.3 **The Context of the Swords:** the Simonside hills are well known for the extent and variety of prehistoric antiquities on them, including standing stones, burial cairns and rock art, which suggest that these hills had a particular importance for the people of the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, and the rock art in particular seems to have acted as a marker of ritual landscapes by 'signing the land', as it has been termed. There is no art inside the project area, but major panels occur in the Lordenshaw complex just to the east, starting at Birky Hill (Beckensall 1992, 20). Despite this dearth of art, the study area is rich in cairns and a find of amber buttons, probably from an Early Bronze Age grave, was made not far from the supposed findspot of the swords. All these indicate that the Simonsides were a focal area in the Bronze Age.
- 4.9.4 **Description of the objects:** the principal find is a fine sword 0.516m long, broken near the tip, complete with three of its four handle rivets (Burgess and Colquhoun 1988, 92, pl. 73, 492, pl. 175C). It would originally have had hilt plates of wood or bone, which do not survive. It was obviously broken before deposition (attempts have been made to join the pieces together again in modern times). It belongs to a very common sword type in Late Bronze Age Britain, named after another famous Northumberland find at Ewart Park near Milfield, and belonging in general terms to the so-called 'flange-hilted' class, named after its raised flanges along the edges of the hilt. The other sword (a blade piece 0.362m long) is too fragmentary to assign to a class, as only the lower part of the blade survives; it has been ground back to a crude point where it should have continued into the shoulder and handle. The lead pommels (the one inspected is 48mm in diameter) are highly unusual in a British context. Little is known about pommels on flange-hilted swords, or how they were attached to the hilt, but lead sometimes occurs in traces on the hilt ends and it is likely that it was often used both to facilitate attachment and to improve the balance of the sword. The rings (the one examined was 42mm in diameter) are found quite frequently in Late Bronze Age contexts. Their diameter suggests they were not for wearing directly on any part of the body, but for hanging on clothing or for the attachment of leather straps, for instance in horse harness. They could conceivably have been part of the pommels or hilts of the swords.
- 4.9.4 The Ewart Park sword type belongs to the later part of the Late Bronze Age and radiocarbon dates on material directly associated with the metalwork suggests a date range of between 1000 and 800 BC (Needham *et al.* 1997, 55). According to the classification of Burgess and Colquhoun, the Simonside sword belongs to 'Northern Step 2', which would place it squarely in the middle of that period since such swords have neither specifically early nor specifically late features.
- 4.9.5 As noted above, the complete sword was broken in antiquity, prior to deposition and such an occurrence is surprisingly common with deposits of bronze weaponry. Contrary to what might be thought, it is highly unlikely that this could have occurred in battle: blows to swords in sword-fights can certainly result in nicking and notching of the edges, but unless they were made of a particularly soft metal they would not have bent them and would certainly not have broken them in two. For that, a hefty blow by a sledgehammer in the smithy would be needed, in other words it would be an intentional break. We are dealing, therefore, with a complete sword that was purposefully broken, a fragmentary

blade of another, the pommels of two swords, and some rings that may or may not have been connected with the swords. This group is a typical example of a hoard or deposit that shows no 'useful' purpose, and may be categorised as a ritual deposit. There are many hundreds, probably thousands, of hoards in Late Bronze Age Britain, and though some bear a resemblance in general terms to the Simonside find, few of them come from areas of such great archaeological potential, or are so obviously non-functional. Other sword finds from Northumberland that may be comparable are those from Ewart Park (above), Brandon, Craggside (with rings), and Whittingham (with spearheads).

- 4.9.6 The Simonside finds will be included in a more general study of swords from the Tyne-Tees region, in the light of recent discoveries in the region and new investigations into their metallurgy.
- 4.9.7 **X-Radiography:** X-radiography was undertaken on both swords in order to establish any constructional artefacts. The radiographs showed no features which could suggest that the swords had been manufactured other than through a single casting operation.
- 4.9.8 Sampling of the swords was not possible and their length allowed only the tip fragment of the near complete sword to be analysed. The analysis showed the tip fragment to contain 12.5% Sn; 11% Pb; 0.25% As; 0.3% Sb and 0.15% Ag; the remainder being Cu. This composition is typical of a Late Bronze Age alloy and has similarities to the recorded compositions of other Ewart Park swords (Northover 1988).

#### 4.10 FOLK-LORE, MYTHS AND LEGENDS

- 4.10.1 Several stories have been recorded in relation to the Duergar, dwarf-like inhabitants associated with the Simonside Hills (*Appendix 3*) from the nineteenth century onwards, but perhaps from an earlier date. In Northumberland, the term Duergar appears to be confined to Simonside, whilst elsewhere in Northumberland fairy, dwarf or brownie appear to be widely used. It is possible, therefore, that the term may represent a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century addition to existing stories in keeping with the gothic literary style of the time which emphasized the grotesque, mysterious, and desolate. It is also worth noting that collections of nineteenth century stories about the borders of Northumberland do not distinguish between the historical and the imaginative (Wilson and Leighton 1863). According to the Dictionary of Phrase and Fable (Cobham Brewer 1993), Duergar are '*Dwarfs who dwell in rocks and hills; noted for their strength, subtlety, magical powers, and skill in metallurgy. They are the personification of the subterranean powers of nature, and Germanic in origin. According to the Gotho-German myth, the Duergar were first maggots in Ymir's flesh (the Giant Ymir represents Chaos), but afterwards assumed the likeness of men.*' They are also known as Black Dwarfs, fairies of '*the most malignant character, a genuine northern Duergar, and once held by the dalesmen of the border as the author of all the mischief that befell their flocks and herds.*'
- 4.10.2 The Duergar stories are set in the Simonside Hills, and centre around tricking people to injure themselves, such as by moving off rocky crags in the enveloping mists. They are the personification of the dangers of the hills which are apparent into the modern day; thick mists appear very quickly and restrict visibility to less

than a metre. Mr T Wilson of Rothbury (currently 85) was warned about the blanketing mists that blow in out of nowhere; when he was a child he was told to stop walking and wait till the mists had cleared. Mr M. Mckendrie reports that he heard that two local strapping young lads wouldn't go up on the hills because of the terrible things that can happen up there on account of the fairy folk.

- 4.10.3 A subterranean passage is recorded running under Simonside (Honeyman 1949, 167), a story also repeated by Mr T. Wilson (who was possibly also quoting Honeyman), linking Cartington Castle with Selby's Cove. This incidence of association of tunnels with 'historical' places is not unremarkable.
- 4.10.4 The use of the hills for refuge continues into the post-medieval period. Dixon (1903, 471) records that Old Betty of Newtown's first thought on hearing of the (false) French invasion of 1804 was to fly to the rocks of Simonside for refuge.
- 4.10.5 Dixon records that Simonside was used as a weather-glass by locals at Rothbury as well as other places from which Simonside is visible: he records two sayings: '*when Simonside puts on his cap, rain is sure to follow*' and '*Simonside may lee, but Cartington Hill never*' (1903, 485-6). In Rothbury, some locals look at it every morning: '*if Simonside looks close the weather will be wet, if Simonside looks farther away the weather should be clear*' (A Millard, pers comm).

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## 5. SURVEY RESULTS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 For the purpose of this report the individual monuments have been grouped according to typological form and, where appropriate, spatial association. Whilst every effort has been made to be comprehensive, the ground cover within the survey area was often impenetrable or obscured by forest brash, and it is anticipated that additional monuments may be revealed by future felling.

### 5.2 PREHISTORIC

5.2.1 The most numerous, and often the most conspicuous, monument type encountered during the survey were the round cairns. They were principally encountered in groups on the northern side of Simonside Hill, in an area formerly known as Spital Hill, and also individually on higher, more prominent locations to the south. A number are known to have been excavated in the nineteenth century, producing funerary evidence and artefacts of Early/Mid Bronze Age date (2400 -1400 BC).

5.2.2 **Cairn groups:** Spital Hill is essentially a northward projecting spur forming a series of steep slopes backed by relatively flat plateaux. The cairns in this area have been grouped into three spatially associated groups representing the upper, middle and lower levels of the spur. Each of these are broadly separated by relative elevation, although, perhaps significantly, most of the cairns are located on the north-western part of the spur.

5.2.3 The upper group, situated between the 280m and 310m contours, consisted of five cairns forming a possible alignment with a single larger cairn offset to the west at the lower north end. The alignment ascends the hill slope in an approximately north-east/south-west direction. In general, the cairns are irregular and poorly defined, ranging in size from 7.9m x 6.5m to 15.9m x 9.2m. This area of the hillslope has considerable amounts of surface stone and protruding erratics and it is possible that cairns 5, 6, and 10 may reflect a concentration of this material rather than man-made mounds of stone. However, cairn 5 appears to have been disturbed which may reflect its location in a forest break or may suggest invasive antiquarian investigation of a cairn-like feature. Cairns 7 and 8, by contrast, are more convincing; the former measured 12.4m x 11.7m and stands up to 0.45m high. The central area was occupied by a large triangular stone with a prominent weathering pattern on the northern face. A weathering pattern of this nature could only occur if this face had originally formed the upper surface, and therefore the stone was probable moved to this location. Cairn (8) measured 7.9m x 6.5m and forms a prominent mound up to 1m high. The central area had been disturbed, revealing a central cist measuring 1.5m x 0.75m in extent.

5.2.4 The larger isolated cairn (1) to the north lay on an area of relatively flat ground, recently cleared by Forest Enterprise. It comprised a large sub-circular mound of stone measuring 8.95m x 8.4m. The central area of the cairn had been excavated and the spoil was banked around the circumference, forming a prominent ring. Two cists were exposed in the base of the excavated area. The southern cist,

measured 0.77 x 0.35m, was rectilinear in plan and was formed by roughly hewn vertical slabs up to 0.45m high. The second cist, measured 1.2m x 0.5-0.77m, was more quadrilateral in plan but of similar construction. Both of the cists have been fully excavated, presumably by Lord Armstrong in 1889.

- 5.2.5 The middle group of cairns, situated between the 270m and 280m contours, occupy the top of Spital Hill proper, which forms a relatively flat-topped rise to the north of cairn (1). A total of seven cairns have been located in this area and again the distribution pattern appears not to have been random. Three of the cairns (15, 20, and 21) formed an approximate west-south-west/east-north-east alignment with a fourth cairn (16) slightly offset to the south. Three further cairns (22-24) lay at the east end. The cairns were generally large well defined and prominent sub-circular mounds ranging in size from 6.7m x 5.3m to 13.1m x 17.2m.
- 5.2.6 Cairn (15), which was tentatively identified as 'Willie's Cairn', and was the only cairn of this group to be recorded on the early Ordnance Survey maps at a time when this area was covered by a nineteenth century plantation. No definite cist could be discerned although the central area appeared to be slightly hollowed and relatively loose. A small recent cairn of stones has been piled up on the northern side. A second low cairn (16) was situated 20m to the east. This site appeared to be largely earthen and slightly elongated east/west. It measured 12.8m x 9.4m and has a hollowed area on the north side defined by large stones up to 0.75m across, though this is not recognisable as a cist as such. No evidence of disturbance of the central area could be discerned.
- 5.2.7 Two further cairns are situated 20m (20) and 80m (21) to the north-east, and have clearly been excavated, presumably by Lord Armstrong in 1889. Cairn 20, which measures approximately 10m in diameter, has a low lying central area surrounded by a ring of earth and stone. A single, irregular cist (water-logged) was exposed in the centre with a large capstone on the north side. A second moss-covered raised area lay immediately on the south-west side. This measured 2m in diameter and may be a separate smaller cairn. Cairn (21), which measures 8.6m x 7.1m and stands 0.75m high, has an external bank, presumably of spoil, forming a crescent extending from the south-west to the south-east. Two unusual cists are exposed in the central area. The southern cist was formed by four sharply cut, vertically set, sandstone slabs forming a crude rectangle measuring 1.2m x 0.5m; a large stone overlying the edge of the cairn to the west appears to have been the capstone. The northern cist had a large capstone which appeared to be in situ; this may reflect the effort that would have been involved in removing it, / have been the result of excavation, which seems to have been undertaken side on.
- 5.2.8 At the east end of this group, three further cairns were recorded. The northernmost (24) consisted of a large, sub-circular cairn (measuring 12.3m x 11.7m), composed of fairly, loose stone. The cairn has suffered substantial disturbance though not necessarily through antiquarian investigation. Though the stones are generally arranged in a haphazard way, several vertical edges, forming a tentative rectangular plan, can be discerned. They may represent the remnants of collapsed drystone walls and, given the size of the feature, it is possible that the cairn was later modified by the insertion of a small rectangular hut. A second, smaller cairn (23) lies 3m to the south-east. The cairn, which measures 5.3m x 6.7m, has a prominent bank of stones standing up to 0.55m

above a depressed central area. No internal features were visible and it is unclear whether this was the original form or the product of antiquarian disturbance. The site of an additional, though less convincing, cairn (22) was recorded 24m to the south-east. It comprised a broadly oval platform, measuring 13.1m x 17.2m, consisting largely of stones.

- 5.2.9 The lower group of six cairns, situated between the 230m and 250m contour, below and to the north-west of the middle group, were noticeably smaller in size. Four of the cairns (29, 57-59) formed an approximate alignment on an east-north-east/west-south-west axis. These cairns typically measure 3.5-4.5m in diameter, survived up to 0.45m high and had a low or irregular profile with a sub-circular plan. The westernmost cairn (29) had a depressed central area (water-logged), with a low outer collar, and appears to have been disturbed, possibly by excavation. An isolated spread of stones (60) may represent the remains of a low cairn. A noticeably larger cairn (27) lay isolated in the centre of a forestry fire break on slightly higher ground to the south of the main alignment. The cairn, which measures 7.5m by 6.8m, has been disturbed by excavation and a cist in the central area was exposed. The cist, which measures approximately 1m x 0.55m, comprised four vertically set stone slabs. The extent of the mound on the northern downslope side may in part reflect spoil from the excavation.
- 5.2.10 Particularly noticeable in this area was the relative absence of surface stone. Relatively stone free or 'smooth' areas are frequently associated with cairnfields resultant from stone clearance. However, it is not possible to definitely assert that such stone free areas indicate clearance activity as they may be caused by the effects of the local geomorphology.
- 5.2.11 **Isolated cairns:** seven isolated cairns were also recorded during the survey. The cairns, which were noted as 'Ridge Cairns' by Jobey (unpublished MSS, Black Gate Library), tend to be relatively large and were generally situated in prominent locations, particularly on the high ground forming the ridge of the Simonside range.
- 5.2.12 Two of these cairns (25 and 47), however, were situated below this level, both show clear evidence of excavation. Cairn (25) was situated close to the edge of a natural terrace overlooking the head of the Chesterhope Burn, due north of the western summit of Simonside. The cairn comprised a large prominent earth and stone mound measuring 14.6m in diameter and up to 1.8m high. Two distinct hollows could be discerned, to the north-west and south-east, which were interpreted as the results of excavations into the mound undertaken by Lord Armstrong in 1899 (Dixon 1903). The southern hollow measured 0.65 x 0.25m and included the remains of a probable cist formed by four vertically set stone slabs. The northern hollow was more disturbed and no evidence for a cist could be discerned. Although it has been planted, and recently felled, this does not appear to have caused significant damage to the structure of the cairn. Cairn (47) was the only isolated example found on the lower slopes, it being situated to the south of the car park. It measured 7.35m by 6.16, had a sunken central area and a crescent-shaped bank of spoil on the north side. It appears to have been excavated but was not recorded by Dixon (1903) in his account of the 1899 excavations.
- 5.2.13 The remaining cairns (34, 36, 38, 41 and 42) all occupy the high ground running from Ravens Haugh in the west to the eastern summit of the Simonside range in



the west. Whilst all have been attributed to the Bronze Age this is in part based on evidence from the lower cairn groups. Cairn (36), situated on a natural outcrop forming the summit of Ravensheugh, was the only cairn in this group to have been subject to excavation in 1899 (Dixon 1892, 29-30). It is currently within dense plantation and its full extent and form was partially obscured; however, it was found to measure 19m x 16m with a depressed central area which was probably the location of the excavation. It was believed to have contained a burial but when examined was found to be constructed entirely of stones. A reference in a parish guide to Rothbury (Anon 1885), pre-dating Lord Armstrong's excavations in 1889, records that several of the cairns on the summit of Simonside were investigated some years earlier and no funerary remains were discovered. No record of these excavations could be found, and although is negative evidence, it lends support to the notion that these cairns may have served a function other than burial.

- 5.2.14 Cairn 34, situated on a col between the summit of Ravensheugh and the western summit of Simonside, has recently been exposed by forest clearance. It was a prominent earth and stone mound, measuring 18.2m x 17.5m, with a domed profile. Although disturbed by forestry, evidence of a shallow external ditch and possibly an encircling bank could be discerned. The Cambo bridleway runs close by the cairn and several hollow ways are aligned on it, suggesting that it served as a waymarker in the medieval/post-medieval period.
- 5.2.15 The western summit of Simonside, which forms the highest point of the range was surmounted by a prominent cairn (42) of earth and stone measuring approximately 19m in diameter. It was situated on a rocky spur set back from the vertical north face of the crag and lay on the course of a modern footpath. Some disturbance has been caused by walkers who appear to have built an additional small cairn on the north side. A small oval drystone structure, probably a shelter, has also been inserted into the south side. It is recorded that a sixteenth century watchtower was once located at this cairn but was destroyed by the beacon which was lit at this site on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1884 (Scott 1985, 45). It is not known whether the watchtower included the cairn as a structural element or whether the two were unconnected. Despite obvious disturbance, however, the lower part of the cairn appeared intact. The middle summit included a large oval cairn (41), measuring 21m x 9m, which was allegedly struck by lightning and much shattered (Brewis and Dixon 1915-16, 45). A smaller recent cairn has been built on the top by walkers and is marked by a change in slope. The eastern summit included a large circular cairn (38), measuring 24.8m x 22.8m, which has been similarly modified by walkers with the construction of a recent smaller cairn to the north of the centre. An oval enclosure, which is probably the remains of a hut, has also been inserted into north-west side, and was probably a result of an earlier episode of disturbance. It may be significant that the parish guide (Anon 1885) notes that in the sixteenth century a shelter was built into one of the cairns on the summit of Simonside for the purpose of border watch.
- 5.2.16 A further isolated cairn (73) was recorded a short distance beyond the southern boundary of the survey area south-east of the Ousen House. The cairn, which measures approximately 15m in diameter and stands to 1.5m high, was situated on the line of the boundary between the ducal estates of Portland and Northumberland, which was formalised in 1790. At this time a trench was

excavated through the centre of the cairn in order to insert a boundary stone (74). Whilst the cairn is likely to have been used as a boundary marker prior to 1790, its size and form is in keeping with the cairns on the summit of Simonside. A low earthen bank on its north side, which curves as if forming the west side of a larger circular feature, was also observed. This may be contemporary or later than the cairn but insufficient of the earthwork was evident to enable an accurate interpretation.

- 5.2.17 An additional cairn, which was excavated by Dixon (Cairn 10 in Dixon 1892, 30-1), was not relocated. The SMR (NZ09NW7) gives an estimated NGR, based on the Dixon's account, at NZ 01699915. Several attempts were made by Ordnance Survey fieldworkers between 1957 and 1976 to identify the site but without success. The site is significant in that the only example of cup marks in the survey was carved on to one of the stones forming the cist. The description of the excavation in Dixon's account leave no doubt that the site existed in the broad locality stated above. Although the SMR (after the 1957 OS card) states that it is presumed removed during tree-planting operations, there is no evidence of similar earth-moving elsewhere and it may, therefore, remain obscured by plantation.

### 5.3 MEDIEVAL/POST MEDIEVAL

- 5.3.1 **Hollow ways:** one of the most notable features recorded within the survey area is the profusion of hollow ways that wind their way up the hillside from the west side of Great Tosson, skirting round the west side of Spital Hill, towards the col between the summits of Ravensheugh and Simonside. Whilst a number of these were recorded as a group (35), emerging from a major pinch point above cairn (25) on to open moorland to the north-west of Simonside, it was clear that they were a significant under-representation within the field results. This was caused by the sheer number of these features within often dense plantation, rendering their adequate recording impractical within the scope of this survey. It was clear, however, that the west side of the Chesterhope Burn, and to a far lesser extent the Coe Burn, was a major route way over the Simonside range. Additional hollow ways were recorded on the south side of Ousen House and were seen to continue for a considerable distance beyond the survey area to the east. The dimensions of the hollow ways vary greatly and are at least partly affected by topography, geology and drainage. The largest examples, however, on the west side of Spital Hill, are up to 3.5m deep.
- 5.3.2 The route along the west side of Spital Hill may have its origins in prehistoric times and a prehistoric date has been interpreted for at least some of the hollow ways near Lordenshaws hillfort, situated to the east of the survey area (Topping 1993, 21). However, the very large number and scale of the hollow ways suggests that the route was used as a drove road. This trade began in the border in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and increased significantly after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. From the early seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century vast herds of cattle crossed the border on their way to English markets (Charlton and Day 1977, 104).
- 5.3.3 The importance of this route is further underlined by the Cambo bridle road which followed this course. The 1806 Enclosure Award recorded that the Donkins of Great Tosson were responsible for its maintenance, and it also

stipulated its minimum dimensions. Indeed, a nineteenth century parish guide mentions the '*sacrilegious hand of the road surveyors*' having spared '*two druidical circles*' on the south side of Burgh Hill (Anon 1885, 3). Two carved stone surfaces were recorded along its route (48 and 49); the lower stone (48) was carved with parallel lines aligned along the route and also perpendicular, giving it a 'cobbled' appearance, whereas the upper stone (49) merely had lines carved perpendicular to the route, and gave it a 'ribbed' appearance, perhaps to facilitated grip for livestock and carts. The bridleway continued to be marked until the end of the nineteenth century when it was recorded on the Second Edition OS map, and continues today as the only public right of way in the survey area.

- 5.3.4 **Cross-dykes:** Two prominent earthen and stone dykes were recorded on the western side of Spital Hill. The southernmost (14) runs broadly east/west from the west end of the crags on the south side of the hilltop and was truncated and cut by hollow ways at its west end. The dyke, which was up to 5.4m wide and generally 1m high, extended for 108m before being truncated by a modern forest road. It then continued on the west side as (12) and (13) turning southwards for a further 35m. A small kink in the dyke (17), which does not appear to be structural, may be the location of a small, later shelter.
- 5.3.5 Further north a second dyke (31), measured 7m wide x 218m long x c1m high, followed an east/west orientation along the lower slopes of Spital Hill. At its east end the dyke ran along the top of a prominent ridge and was truncated by a later quarry (30). No trace of the dyke could be found beyond the quarry though in this area the ground falls much more steeply to the north, perhaps negating the need for a barrier in this area. At the west end the dyke petered out although its line was continued by a modern boundary in the open fields to the west. In the central part, the dyke had been bolstered by the addition of an extra dyke (32) on the north side, forming a substantial double bank with a central 'ditch'. This dyke, which measured 4.8m wide x 38.7m long, merged with (31) to the west but terminated abruptly to the east. At this point the cross-dyke was cut by a substantial hollow way, possibly marking a main crossing point through the dyke.
- 5.3.6 Cross-dykes, are frequently found in association with hollow ways in Northumberland and the Borders, where the land narrows on a ridge or descending ground (Charlton and Day 1977, 105). Their purpose was to restrict or control the movement of livestock, and more rarely to exact a toll. It is likely, therefore, that the cross-dykes are contemporary with at least some of the hollow ways. In this context it may be significant that the east end of (14) ran from a prominent crag westwards before curving southwards at the east end, thus directing traffic onto the lower western slopes of Spital Hill. The northern dyke (31) also ran westwards from a steep north facing scarp. The crossing of these dykes by the hollow ways may date to a period when they were no longer maintained, and when their original function had been forgotten.
- 5.3.7 A third dyke (28), measuring 7.8m wide x 126m long x 0.5m high, was situated to the north of (31). The south-east end appeared to curve southward towards the quarry (30), whilst the north-west end extends towards the corner of the plantation. It appeared to have a close relationship to the western extent of the nineteenth century plantation and may be the remains of a wood bank, preventing the incursion of livestock into an area of saplings.

- 5.3.8 **Sheep stells:** two circular enclosures (55 and 56) were located to the south-west of the lower cairn group (between 28 and 31). The southern enclosure (55) measured approximately 23m in diameter and consisted of a 2m wide earthen bank which stood to 0.4m in height. The northern enclosure (56) was of similar form but was 21m in diameter. Their shape and size falls within the range of medieval/post medieval sheep stells (Charlton and Day 1977, 88) and have been described as 'house circles' (Scott 1885, 42), though they may be the 'Aad Stells' referred to by Dixon (1892, 26; 1903, 129-30). The spatial relationship of the stells to the dykes may be significant though there is no evidence of contemporaneity.
- 5.3.9 **Shielings:** A single, probable post-medieval, shieling (75) was recorded immediately on the north side of the Ousen Burn, and slightly to the east of the southern survey boundary. It was oriented north-west/south-east and consisted of two cells, measuring 6m x 3m and 2m x 3m with walls up to 1m high. No evidence of a fire place was observed, though the interior was obscured by wall tumble and vegetation. It may be significant that the building lies close to the Ousen House, within an area of hollow ways.
- 5.3.10 Two further buildings were identified on Spital Hill. The first (18) was situated to the east on the eastern terminus of a cross-dyke (14). Two lengths of well-built drystone wall, 3.4m apart, abutt a 1.6m high natural south-facing rock outcrop. The remains of an additional course of drystone wall could be seen on top of the outcrop suggesting that the building formerly extended to the height of the outcrop. Its function is uncertain, although it may have been used as a shepherds bothy, whilst its construction would point to a post-medieval date.
- 5.3.11 The remains of an additional building was tentatively identified within the structure of cairn (24) and is discussed above (*Section 5.2.8*). This may represent the remains of a rectangular building, possibly a shieling, although there is also the possibility that it relates to the sixteenth century watchtower recorded on the top of Spital Hill by Scott (1885, 42).
- 5.3.12 **Rock shelters:** no direct evidence for prehistoric activity within any rock shelters within the survey area was found during fieldwork, but this was perhaps to be expected. This does not, however, rule out the possibility that some of the identified shelters may have been used in earlier periods. The shelters tend to have been formed by the erosion of soft sandstone strata beneath harder sandstone beds. The presence of fairly loose drystone walls at many of these sites indicates their use in more recent times. Four such sites were identified during the field survey though it is accepted that, following clearance, other possible shelter sites may be discovered amongst the crags on the north side of Simonside Hill.
- 5.3.13 Shelter (26) comprised a very prominent rock outcrop which over looks the east bank of the Chesterhope Burn, above cairn (25). The overhang shelters a relatively flat area, measuring an area 4.5m x 3.8m, partly defined on the west side by a fairly recent drystone wall. The wall survived to two courses along a break of slope and appeared quite loose. The site is situated above the Cambo bridle road and may have been used as a temporary shelter. However, given the prominence of the overhang and the wide views of the Chesterhope Burn and the Coquet valley, the site may have been used as an earlier, prehistoric shelter.

- 5.3.14 A second shelter was situated at the east end of a prominent crag, forming the south side of Spital Hill. At this point a very recent drystone wall 1m high had been built around the south and south-east side of a prominent overhang, enclosing an area 2.5m x 3.4m x 1m high. A narrow entrance, recently formalised by the addition of a timber frame, was situated to the south-east.
- 5.3.15 The most well known rock shelter is the Ousen House (45), situated within a prominent south-facing crag on the north side of the Ousen Burn, south of Simonside Hill. It comprised a large natural recess in the crag face, measuring 5.9m x 5.6m, with the rock forming walls on three sides and above. The south side was enclosed with a drystone wall, the lower courses of which were earthfast. In the north-west corner a ledge has been used as a hearth, above which a natural fissure leading up through the rock has been used as a chimney. The site lies above a series of hollow ways leading eastwards on both sides of the Ousen Burn and it was recorded by Dixon (1903, 482) that cattle were sheltered on the south side, and that Ousen House provided shelter for the drovers.
- 5.3.16 A smaller, putative shelter (40) was recorded on the north facing crag east-north-east of cairn 41. The natural formation of the crag at this point has produced a recess, measuring 2.1m x 2.5m with the sides and roof formed by natural rock. There was also the fragmentary remains of a single exposed course of drystone wall near the entrance and it was probably used as a refuge at some period in the past.
- 5.3.17 **Field systems:** besides the enclosures recorded on the early OS maps, a small number of features associated with probable medieval or post-medieval field systems were recorded within the survey area, to the south and south-east of the main car park. These consisted of two low earthen field boundaries (53 and 54), but no evidence of associated cultivation was recorded. A Forest Enterprise aerial photograph (541/A/478 - 3300) clearly shows two fields (70) extending south-eastwards into the survey area from the east side of the modern road and there are indications of ridge and furrow cultivation shown within an unforested area that is immediately adjacent to the survey area, between the car park and Great Tosson.
- 5.3.18 **Boundary stones:** a total of three boundary stones (61, 74 and 76) were located along the course of the boundary separating the Barony of Hepple (west) from the Manor and Borough of Rothbury (east) as defined in 1790. The stones consisted of dressed fell sandstone blocks, measuring on average 0.25m x 0.19m x 0.65m, with the letters DP (Duke of Portland) and DN (Duke of Northumberland) on the west and east sides, respectively. In addition a boundary marker (50) was identified on the edge of the northern scarp of Simonside Hill, which consisted of a flat surface with the letters DP and DN (the N is reversed) and the date 15th of September 1790. An additional inscription 'TR 1807' was a later carving and, although finely executed, may be graffiti. The course of the boundary also markers the boundary between the now defunct parish of Newtown and Tosson as defined on the early OS editions.
- 5.3.19 **Newtown deer park:** a deer park was established to the east of the survey area, probably in 1275, by Robert son of Roger (FitzRoger later Clavering). Its boundary, which encloses an area of 117 hectares, extends from the eastern part of the survey area, eastwards along the north side of Whitton Burn, then runs southwards on the west side of Lordenshaws hillfort. The park pale consists of a

well-constructed wall which varies in preservation along its course, but is best preserved as it climbs a prominent shoulder towards the summit of The Beacon (Topping 1993, 22-23). A significant section of the southern side of the park pale survives within the survey area and consists of an earthen bank retained by a 1.5m high revetment wall on the downslope side. The wall consisted of dressed and squared dry sandstone masonry and, despite damage by forestry operations, it appears to have survived to near original height in many places. The northward course of the park pale is situated within dense plantation and its survival in this area could not be confirmed. Accessible sections of the park pale were surveyed by the RCHM(E) and the most well-preserved section is a Listed grade I structure. The deer park blocked a main route around the Simonside range for the transport of cattle, leading to unsuccessful complaints from the men of Rothbury (Topping 1993, 24) and this may have led to increased use of the Cambo bridle road. A prominent section of hollow way leads around the outside of the corner of the park pale near White Park Well, possibly illustrating the diversion of traffic at this time.

#### 5.4 MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

- 5.4.1 **Wells:** the sites of several wells (37, 67 and 52) were located within the survey area and several other sites lay slightly beyond the survey boundary. The site of 37 is particularly noteworthy as it includes the remains of wall fragments, partly obscured by a large stone spread. The well is marked on the early editions of the OS maps (but not on the enclosure map of 1806) where its location corresponds with that of a spring. It is probable that a structure was erected here to control the flow of water from the spring either for agricultural or domestic use. It has been noted (Anon 1885, 42) that '*at Tosson the number and beauty of springs in this township are remarkable*' and Fowler (1935, 141) notes that '*White Park Well (Site 67) supplies Rothbury with drinking water*'. The site has recently been capped with concrete and a new pipeway installed. Fowler also notes that '*A mile or so north-west of this*' and presumably outside the survey area, '*a powerful spring issues from the foot of the escarpment, near Great Tosson, forming part of the water supply for Tynemouth corporation*'.
- 5.4.2 **Extraction features:** a single quarry (27) was recorded during the survey, which lies on the lower slope of Spital Hill. It does not include evidence for the process of extraction, such as tare-and-feather marks, shot holes, etc, and it is likely that the natural planes within the outcrop were exploited. The date of the quarry is uncertain: it is evident that a cross-dyke (28) ran to the west end of the quarry but did not continue to the east, suggesting that it predated the quarry. This would potentially allow the possibility of a connection with the construction of Tosson Tower built at sometime after AD 1330 (Bates 1891, 392). However, the outcrop at this point generates a steep slope which would not have necessitated the continuation of the dyke eastwards. A connection with the construction of the existing farm buildings at Great Tosson, or with the construction of field walls following the Enclosure Award in 1806, is also possible and perhaps more plausible. It is significant that the quarry is not marked by the early OS but is shown on a 1948 aerial photograph, suggesting that the site was obscured by the nineteenth century plantation.

5.4.3 **Named natural outcrops:** several named natural features were also recorded within the survey. Little Church Rock (63) which is situated on the north facing slope above Spital Hill, is a large natural Fell Sandstone outcrop. Although it is reputed to have within it a cave large enough for twelve people (Dixon 1903), this is in fact only a shallow recess in the rock. The origin of the name is obscure, though it is possible that from a distance it may have resembled a church tower. A further outcrop to the west, above the head of the Chesterhope Burn, is known as Kate and Geordie (64). The precise origin of the name is not clear, although Dixon (1903, 482) attributes it to the period of Donkin rule at Tosson. Bob Pyle's Studdie (71) is a large boulder situated at the base of the slope on the west side of the summit of Simonside Crag. It is believed to be named after a blacksmith at Tosson, the rock resembling his anvil (Dixon 1903, 482). The Main or Mere Stone (65), which lies on the western boundary of the survey area, is a massive glacial erratic which has been used as a boundary marker from the earliest records. It was postulated by Honeyman (1931-2, 137) that the stone was used as a sight line for earthworks at Old Rothbury. Although the name Old Stell Crag would appear to suggest the site of a livestock enclosure, the name is believed to relate to the formation of the crag on the south side which could be readily used to shelter livestock.

## 6. PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY OF SIMONSIDe

John Chapman

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### 6.1 LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY - THE WIDER CONTEXT

- 6.1.1 The renewed interest in landscape archaeology in the last decade is related not only to the range of new techniques (GIS, satellite imagery, advances in geophysical prospection, etc) available but also to conceptual changes which lie at the very roots of the sub-discipline. Two of the most important changes relate to the recognition and interpretation of 'meaning' in the landscape and the notion of different social individuals approaching the landscape with different perceptions. While the identification of the first is often difficult enough, the second notion complicates the issue even more and leads to its own theoretical and methodological difficulties.
- 6.1.2 Concerning 'meaning', archaeologists of all persuasions, but particularly those dubbed 'post-processualists', are concerned with interpretation, the creation of modern narrative into which observations of the residues of the past (monuments, sites, objects, people) are incorporated. These narratives contain elements of observable (empirical) data but are structured by the type of inferences drawn from the material remains. It is clear that 'doing' cannot any longer be separated from 'thinking' (Bender *et al* 1997, 149); the notion that 'ritual' or 'meaning' can be classed as a different kind of activity and studied apart from the remains of human action is no longer helpful. Thus, an important goal in studying ancient landscapes, such as that at Simonside, is the creation of a framework of 'meaning' which encompasses the physical remains, both natural and cultural. This leads to the writing of (often multiple) narratives in which the material remains and all we know about them and their contexts (social, physical) constrains what we write, so that there are restrictions on the inevitable subjectivities of modern authors. The product of this research will be a series of narratives about the study area which will seek to understand the past uses to which Simonside has been put and the many ways in which people in the past have drawn upon the material forms and resources of the hills for use in the creation of their own cognitive frameworks for living. These narratives may be used, where appropriate, or interpretative material in trail guides, marker posts and interpretation boards.
- 6.1.3 A useful distinction can be made between an entire landscape and the places, or locales, which are distributed within it. According to Tilley (1996, 161-2), landscape transcends the particular locales to signify '*a set of conventional and normative understandings through which people construct and make sense of their cultural world*'. Landscapes are relationally constituted through embodied experiences, of walking through, of seeing, often from a distance, and from memory. Importantly, learning about one's landscape is a primary medium of socialisation, by which people form their personal autobiographical understanding of their own place in their cultural world. Yet places have their own significance, too. People attach significance to places for many reasons and in many ways but the idea of place-value is fundamental to landscapes (Chapman 1998). As the Romanian Mircea Eliade reminds us, the notion of 'place' is an attempt to provide a centre, an axis mundi, for the world. While the Simonside



landscape is closely defined in terms of size and topography, the intriguing fact is that it is dotted with a wide range of places, whose significance is very real to current inhabitants of, and visitors to, the area and was presumably so to people in the past.

- 6.1.4 A continuing debate within landscape studies is the relationship, of 'nature' and 'culture'. The deeper one penetrates into the definitional thicket, the harder it is to make a clear distinction between these two supposed opposites. It is difficult, for instance, to decide on the extent to which Capability Brown's gardens are truly 'cultural' insofar as they are based on the artificial alteration of the terrain and how far the 'natural' contours of the land remain fundamental. A useful approach to this dilemma comes from social anthropology, where "natural" forms and resources are embodied in a cultural process, irrespective of artificial modification. Thus, Ayres Rock in Australia is a fundamentally 'cultural' landmark, of central importance to the belief systems of the aboriginal populations of the Central Desert, because it has been constituted as 'cultural' in the cognitive framework of the local communities.
- 6.1.5 In a recent global study of 'natural' landscape features, Carmichael *et al* (1994) identify a widespread pattern – the significance of such features as sacred places. They list the kinds of topographical features invested with sacred significance as including the following: mountain peaks, unusual rocks, caves, springs, lakes, waterfalls, rivers, bogs and large trees. While the myths, meanings, cosmic associations and symbolic referents are specific to each place and very variable, the general principle remains the same: such sites have become embodied in the cultural meaning of the landscape developed by local communities, and often take a central role. However, the problem for archaeologists has been succinctly defined by Tilley (1995, 12) as follows: "*Many of these places are not marked by any human constructions or activities that would be visibly recognisable to an archaeologist in the field, although, at most, offerings are made*". An attempt to meet this challenge will be discussed below (Section 6.2).
- 6.1.6 The general reason why such natural features have become sacred sites is discussed by Richards in an article about the water which filled many henge ditches (Richards 1996, 313-316). Richards makes an ontological claim about such landscape features: it is not simply that pools, rocks and trees are important but each embodies an element of ontological status "*which draws on and transcends the physical appearance*" (1996, 315). The ontology of natural features provides a cosmological underpinning to strategies of knowledge, which in turn sustain people's interactions with their material world. If the material world provides images in the form of places and landmarks, then people interpret them and give them meaning through social practices and their own lived experiences. These ontological elements provide basic classifications of the material world, fundamental cosmological principles and important parts of ritual. It is important to stress that people can gain ontological understanding only through active engagement with the material world. This brings us back to the question of the actual use of, and involvement with, the Simonside landscape features.
- 6.1.7 There is much ethnographic data on the various ways in which communities make active use of landscape features, especially rocks. Representative of this genre is the Miriam Kahn's (1990) account of the Wamira (Papua New Guinea) people's relationship to their rocky outcrops. For the Wamira, landmarks have the dual functions of marking an ancient itinerary and serving as a physical

memorial of past events. Many aspects of the people's common past is perceived, recorded and experienced in terms of geographical features, especially rocks. Because the Wamira inscribe their cultural meanings onto the landscape, the possession of the knowledge of physical landscape forms becomes tantamount to the possession of the knowledge of the events which those forms symbolise. Thus, the ritual power of the society is also closely related to knowledge of physical features. As Clifford puts it (1982, 226-7): "*Rocks are forms of local history, mythic 'words'... Rocks are crucial in New Caledonia. They stake out the habitat, providing permanent markers around and over which flow the ongoing currents of society, history and natural life*". In support of this claim, Section 4.10 of this report records some of the myths, legends of recent stories associated with the Simonside hills. The naming of rocks and their associations with significant past events is an important way of embodying natural features into one's cultural world.

6.1.8 This theoretical background to landscape archaeological research leads to three questions which can be used to define a longer-term research agenda for the Simonside area:

- how is it possible to identify salience in both "natural" and "cultural" features ?
- what is the interaction between "natural" and "cultural" features on Simonside ?
- how can the total pattern of landscape features at Simonside be interpreted through a long-term cultural narrative ?

## 6.2 PHENOMENOLOGICAL STRATEGY

6.2.1 Phenomenological studies have made a significant contribution to landscape archaeology in recent years. They make an attempt at understanding how past communities may have perceived their environment and attributed significance to features within it. The greatest problem with this approach is that we have little idea how relevant the views of modern observers of the modern environment are to those held by past communities. Phenomenology, as a term, was coined by Edward Husserl to name a pure non-empirical science whereby the meaningful use of words is studied in conditions free of generalisations from experience. This means that there are no hypotheses or theories in phenomenology. The technique records individual feelings and perceptions with each individual views accrued equal weight and validity.

6.2.2 On the one side there is objective measurable and available information, and on the other, there is a cognitive system that is sensitive - to a greater or lesser extent - to the form of information given. For a cognitive system to be sensitive in this way it must have a history of being exposed to relevant formations of sensory information and involve the relevant semantic relations between terms (words) used by a community of language users.

6.2.3 Thus when archaeologists see a pile of stones of a certain shape, we call it a cairn. And while 'a pile of stones' and 'a cairn' are synonymous phrases in some contexts, they are not synonymous in others (e.g. compare hill walking discourse and archaeological discourse). Put otherwise, 'a pile of stones' describes a

phenomenon, while 'a cairn' connotes an artefact with social relevance to a community of practice i.e. archaeologists (and of course its maker). Again, 'a cairn' connotes differently for archaeologists as opposed to the community that built them.

- 6.2.4 **Simonside:** The Simonside hills form a reasonably well-bounded entity, visible from afar to the east and south, less visible on approaches from the north and west, but whose lower northern slopes descend into what is currently farmland and ultimately the valley of the Coquet. Currently, the uplands are well differentiated from the lowlands but the existence of such a clear boundary in the past may be questioned and the problem should be investigated.
- 6.2.5 The pollen analysis from the local Caudhole Moss indicates a largely as yet undated sequence of postglacial forest clearance, forest regeneration, limited agricultural expansion and a major clearance phase which initiated the modern 'open' landscape (*Section 4.1*). The pollen evidence is vital for the understanding of what differentiated the Simonside 'uplands' from the coeval 'lowlands', since this division in itself is a primary cultural classification into 'wild' and 'tamed' which could have great significance for an understanding of changes in landscape perception. It is considered a fundamental goal of the landscape interpretation to have a detailed and well-dated vegetational sequence from Caudhole Moss, which will serve as the primary record for establishing the background to landscape perceptions in the past.
- 6.2.6 There are many different elements of natural forms on the Simonside hills, ranging from large outcrops to small, probably insignificant earthfast rocks. The question of which of these rocks in the landscape were actually salient for prehistoric communities visiting the area requires discussion. Our first thoughts were that the two most obvious variables by which to identify salience were size and visibility, though without knowing exactly to what the rocks might be salient limits the reliability of decisions on salience. Moreover, as we moved around the landscape, it became obvious quite soon that the views to any given rock and the size of the rock from any particular direction is subject to radical change, such that rock 25 may appear large, visible and therefore salient from the North but small, scarcely noticeable until close by and therefore not salient, if approached from the south-east. The procedure of creating "salience" scores for each rock as approached from a multitude of compass directions seemed an unlikely way of understanding the landscape overall and left us with the main and hitherto undiscussed problem – people's differing viewpoints. However, if the visibility of rocks is at all salient, it need not be so on all occasions or events. Cultural saliency is not a fixed-value attribute of any rock. Cultural importance can and will rise and fall with changing circumstances. Surveying visible dispositions *and* their changing relations with one another is the very first thing that needs to be ascertained.
- 6.2.7 It is a truism of post-modernism that there are many differing views of the past, the present and the future – not simply a single dominant, or grand, narrative representing the white male Christian Establishment views. Even on a small scale, in tribal societies, people of different age, gender and status will perceive their cultural world in different ways, especially those segments heavily imbued with ritual. Hence, one way to approach salience as well as tackling the problem of differing viewpoints is the collection of a variety of opinions from different groups of people who walk across the Simonside hills, with a minimum of

guidance from an 'experienced tribal elder' (aka Peter Carne). This fieldwork has progressed as far as the first stage of data collection, in which groups of Durham students have walked a more-or-less 'set' route across the main Simonside ridge and down the Southern slope or vice versa.

- 6.2.8 The initial objective was for four pairs of students to record their impressions of what they considered as 'salient rocks', in a variety of media. The aim was for each team to make notebook entries as well as audio-tape records of their impressions, to record the location of the rock on a hand-held GPS and to make a video of the rock for future identification. In practice, a sufficient quantity of recording kit was never available for all four teams and so the video and audio-tape recording was limited.
- 6.2.9 The mechanism for recording field information was also considered in some detail. The idea of a standardised recording proforma was rejected, not only because such a form would prompt the teams unnecessarily but also because proformas can easily screen out the possibility of different ideas from the team's approach. Thus, relative freedom of recording was agreed as the initial method for each team, recognising the problems which would inevitably follow in the post-fieldwork data processing stage. Nonetheless, the combination of video images, taped commentary and notebook commentary has provided a relatively full picture of the fieldwork events, which have been reconstructed with much effort.
- 6.2.10 After several preparatory field visits to the area by the 'experienced tribal elders', the first team fieldwork session was successfully completed on Sunday 22/11/1998. Four pairs of students were in the field (Teams A-D). Because there was only one video camera available for Teams C and D, they worked more closely together than was desirable. Working from the forested southern slopes upwards, Teams A and B visited a total of 23 'sites' (in the sense of rocky outcrops). Team C - D began at the Lordenshaws end of the main Simonside ridge and recorded 13 'sites'. The teams met at the end of a wet and windswept day at Old Stell Crag. The aim of all the teams completing a full transect was not realised, owing to the inclement weather and the large numbers of interesting rocks en route.
- 6.2.11 On the second fieldwork day (Sunday 24/11/1998) the teams completed their transects across the ridge and recorded a number of new "sites". A commonly recorded comment was the difference it made in assessing the salience of rocks to start from the ridge top i.e. from the Western, Lordenshaws, end or from the lower Southern slopes. It will be interesting to study the influence of direction of approach, for instance by including transects starting from other compass points in future research design.

### 6.3 FIELD RESULTS

- 6.3.1 The results of the field data collection have not yet been analysed in detail but, nonetheless, several basic points have already emerged from post-fieldwork meetings. The main difference between teams assessing rocks in the forested lower slopes was the significance of views as a criterion of salience. In forested parts of the landscape, where unhindered views were rare and therefore valuable, those rocks which afforded longer views than just a few metres were

considered salient by all teams. Conversely, the factor of views from rocks was hardly mentioned by teams in their ridge transects, since wide to panoramic views were the “norm” from the ridgetop. Thus, the availability of good views in general from the ridgetop made this variable less significant in comparison with the lower slopes.

6.3.2 Four principal criteria for salience on the ridgetop were recognised:

- Size of rock outcrop
- Presence of unusual shapes, especially those conjuring up associations with organic forms
- Presence of rock basins or adjoining rock pools
- Presence of unusual linear markings on rocks

6.3.3 These criteria were also noted by teams working on the lower slopes, in addition to the “viewshed” criterion but these features were not so important. These preliminary considerations should be investigated further to see whether or not the same “meanings” can be isolated from different teams who were observing the same rocky outcrop.

6.3.4 Even from this preliminary investigation, it was evident that the relationship between cairns and rocky outcrops were variable. Cairn (36) is built on an outcrop, cairn (42) incorporates an earthfast boulder, while other cairns are built on earth close to or far from rocky outcrops. The list of sites includes three rock shelters, where the very nature of settlement is dependent upon the rock matrix (cf. a discussion of the symbolic potential of caves: Chapman, n.d). Finally, the list of sites includes four named natural rock features – Little Church Rock (63), Kate and Geordie (64), the Main or Mere Stone (65) and Bob Pyle’s Studdie (71). It is suggested that these four named rocks are simply the most evident end of a spectrum of important natural features in the landscape, all of which would have been known to past communities, most of which would have been named and some of which could have enjoyed particular cosmological or ritual significance.

6.3.5 **Interaction of Cultural and natural:** the collection and analysis of the salience data then leads to the second question in the research agenda: how does the natural interact with the cultural on the Simonside hills? In other study regions with rocky outcrops such as Bodmin Moor, there is a complex and changing pattern of associations between the two forms. Tilley (1995: 1996) has investigated the manner in which stone, as a basic elemental material and building material, is used to emphasise the rocky outcrops known as “tors”. The UCL team working at the Bronze Age site of Leskernick (Bodmin Moor) has identified four ways in which stone is incorporated into the cultural landscape: (a) stones are used for building house walls; (b) stones join up areas of dense clutter to form enclosure walls; (c) stones are cleared away from important rocks to leave “natural” offering platforms; and (d) stones encase boulders and form uprights to emphasise salient boulders (Bender *et al.* 1997:173). There are even more varied uses of stones in the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age rocky landscapes of Abbetorp, Sweden. In all 20 different ways of using can be identified :

**TABLE 1**

ROCKS MOVED

ROCKS IN SITU

Field clearance cairns	Large outcrops with offerings
Platforms of unburnt stones	Large outcrops incorporated into burial cairns
Burial cairns	Small outcrops incorporated into walls
Stone walls	Small outcrops incorporated into houses
Stone circle	Small outcrops incorporated into hearths
Stone upright (in slot)	Small outcrops incorporated into pits
Platforms of fire-cracked rocks	Large outcrops as platform for stone circle
Small enclosure walls	Large outcrops as platform for stone upright
Niches / platforms	Stones decorated with cup marks
	Platform for cremation pyre
	Uncleared stones across the landscape

## 6.4 CONCLUSIONS

6.4.1 Much interesting research is yet required before we can penetrate to the secrets of the range of hills at Simonside. Some of this research is ground-breaking for British archaeology – especially the collection of data from different perceptions of landscape features. Much of the research has a European dimension, through the links of the project with the Rocky Landscapes project. It is also very encouraging to note that the results of this landscape research can be incorporated into National Parks information, to be made available to the local community as much as to tourists and visitors. This is a time of great potential for public archaeology, in the sense of community involvement with archaeological research. It is hoped that the landscape aspect of the Simonside project can be of some use for community archaeology in the future.

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## 7. DISCUSSION

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 Throughout the world high places have, and continue to have, a significant role in cultural life and religious beliefs (Bernbaum 1997). At various times in the past and in changing, but probably connected ways, the Simonside Hills would have attained such significance. The survey of the known and visible archaeological record indicates that the Simonside Hills were a focus of a variety of 'ritual' activities, and phenomenological research has begun to indicate how the significance of Simonside's natural environment may have been perceived in the cultural life of past communities.

7.1.2 The Simonside Hill survey project has demonstrated that a considerable number and range of archaeological sites survive, often in surprising good condition, within areas of plantation as well as the higher moorland areas. The recognition of additional and important archaeological features beyond, but close to, the southern boundary of the survey area, underlines the arbitrary nature of the existing survey boundary. It must be understood that the survey has examined only part of a much broader archaeological landscape. It is also clear that some locales, within the study area, have been made inaccessible by the density of the plantation; it is therefore anticipated that a number of sites will inevitably arise in the course of future thinning and felling operations. Modern plantations will also have hindered the intervisibility of features and altered the vantages and perceptions gained from viewpoints, thus the appreciation of salience in some cases will have been influenced by recent additions to the landscape.

### 7.2 PREHISTORIC/ROMANO-BRITISH ACTIVITY

7.2.1 **Mesolithic/Neolithic:** No direct evidence of Mesolithic activity can be ascribed to the survey area, though as has been noted similar outcrops of Fell Sandstone in north Northumberland, such as Goat Crag, Corby Crag and Bowden Doors, have produced evidence for the use of such outcrops as shelters during this period. Weyman (1984, 40) notes that the discovery of Mesolithic material in the excavation of rock shelters in Fell Sandstone crag-lines tend to come from the 150-250m line. Unlike the northern outcrops of the Fell Sandstones, evidence of clearance and cultivation during the Neolithic on the westward sweep of the outcrop from Thrunton Crag to the Simonsides appears to be absent which Burgess argues is militated against by the elevation of the outcrops (usually above 250m) (1984, 133). This contrasts sharply for Coquetdale as a whole where the distribution of stone axe finds indicate considerable Neolithic activity (1984, 135).

7.2.2 **Bronze Age:** we have seen that Bronze Age activity, in the form of a considerable complex of funerary monuments and excavated grave goods, indicates considerable activity within the general environs of Simonside Hill during the early Bronze Age period. As yet, there is no evidence for cultivation or settlement. The results of the excavations undertaken by Lord Armstrong, Dixon and others has demonstrated that two contrasting funerary traditions exist, often in the same cairn. In many of the excavated examples it is clear that inhumation burial in cists formed the central funerary context within the cairn. As Bradley notes

(1983, 84; after Burgess 1980, 295-324), normally the earliest burials occupy the central part of the monument and contain the most elaborate artefacts, but often show later re-use with the incorporation of secondary burials. In a number of Dixon's accounts cremation burials in urns were encountered in peripheral parts of the cairns, and despite increasing evidence of dual rite, cremation burials are normally secondary to inhumation. Where cremations are centrally placed, no secondary inhumations occur (1983, 84; after Burgess 1980, 295-324). In a small but significant number of instances no funerary remains were found during the nineteenth century excavations. Whilst this phenomenon is not unknown, it is also possible that such burials were not recognised by the excavators or that burials existed but were not encountered in the excavated areas. Indeed, in one instance Dixon (1892) is clear that only part of a cairn was excavated and that other funerary remains possibly existed under the remainder of the cairn. Whilst it is perhaps unwise to criticise our archaeological forebears it would none the less be appropriate to stress that the excavation undertaken by antiquaries such as Dixon, both in objective and method, do not conform to the practices of modern archaeology. Whilst we cannot examine any primary records of the excavations, if kept at all, the surviving surface expression of the cairns leaves us in no doubt that, in most cases, the main focus of their activity was concentrated in the central areas of the cairns where burials and grave goods would be expected. Therefore, this should be taken into account when the surviving evidence is considered and analysed.

- 7.2.3 An analysis of published literature and a limited examination of land immediately adjacent to the survey area has demonstrated that the potential extent of the funerary landscape associated with Simonside extends beyond the defined limits of the survey area. As has been stated above, there is also a likelihood that other cairns exist within the densely planted areas. Research has revealed that a series of nineteenth century excavations have been undertaken within the survey area and in adjacent areas by Greenwell at the Tosson limestone quarry, by Lord Armstrong in 1889, and over the following few years by Dixon and [Armstrong's agent], as well as earlier unspecified examinations of the cairns on the top of the Simonside Hills. In a number of instances it has been possible to relate published accounts of cairn excavations with those identified and recorded during the fieldwork phase of the project.
- 7.2.4 One aspect which was unexpected was the lack of rock art in the form of characteristic cup and ring mark which are so numerous to the east on Garleigh Moor. This phenomenon is not confined to the study area and is now being recognised in other similar environments. As Bradley (1996, 88) notes although the distribution of cup and ring marks appears to be confined to the presence of a suitable rock (sandstone), they do not appear to extend across its entire distribution. For the most part the carved rocks overlook tracts of unusually productive lowland soils, and normally they are found in regions where the possibilities of stable land use were limited by topographical features. In North Northumberland they are found around the edges of fertile valleys and basins, closed by the Fell Sandstone to the east and the Cheviots to the west (*ibid*, 88); Bradley argues that they are found where resources are coming under pressure (*ibid*, 90) and palaeo-environmental evidence suggests that during the lead up to the emergence of the cup and ring markings that the landscape was becoming more open (*ibid*, 90). In his research into viewpoints associated with cup and ring markings on the Fell Sandstone Bradley compared views from rock carvings with



those from undecorated but suitable rock outcrops (*ibid*, 91). It soon became clear, he argues, that the carvings avoided areas with little or no view, and views from carved rocks were significantly wider (*ibid*, 91). Further more their location depends on the ability of past communities to locate them easily (*ibid*, 92). If the interpretation of this data is accepted it would imply that the views from the outcrops on Simonside were restricted in some way. However, the elevation of the most prominent outcrops on the upper part of the Simonsides are significantly higher than other areas of the Fell Sandstone outcrop. A single fragment of cup marked rock was included in the foundation stones of the cist beneath the unlocated Cairn 10 (Dixon 1892, 30-1), which suggests that although rock art appears absent from the survey area it was nonetheless important to the community represented by the funerary monuments. The important contribution to the project of Dr John Chapman's research into salience in the Simonside landscape may shed further light on this aspect of the project.

- 7.2.5 Further evidence for Bronze Age activity are the recovery of stray finds, including a palstave from the former Long Plantation, immediately adjacent to Tosson Burgh and a hoard of objects, including two swords (*Section 4.9*). The swords belong to the Late Bronze Age Ewart Park phase, (Burgess and Colquhoun's 'Northern Step 2' (1988)) around 900 BC, and were probably later than the main concentration of Bronze Age funerary activity. The swords were clearly broken prior to deposition and can be regarded as part of the 'ritual' deposit phenomena.
- 7.2.6 **Economy:** the later prehistoric period is well represented in Upper Coquetdale by relatively large scale settlements such as Tosson Burgh and Lordenshaws. Although direct evidence is lacking, it is probable that there that there was an emphasis on a pastoral economy. The predominantly acid podsol associated with the Fell Sandstone renders the area unsuitable for cultivation, a fact underlined by the high and steep slope of the north side of the Crag which casts a cold dark shadow for much of the year. It is not surprising, therefore, that no evidence of cultivation clearance was identified in association with the cairns. There are relatively 'smooth' areas on the lower southern slope of Spital Hill, close to the smaller sized cairns, and there is the possibility that this reflects limited land improvement associated with clearance type cairns; however, the surface could also reflect geomorphological activity and the cairns have the potential to be small funerary monuments.
- 7.2.7 **Prehistoric Communications:** the importance of Simonside in terms of communication routes has been stated above and will be further discussed later. It has been argued, that at least two of the hollow ways on nearby Garleigh Moor may be of prehistoric date based on surface stratification. This is perhaps not unexpected given the proximity to the major settlement on Lordenshaws. To extend this argument, however, to the identification of prehistoric routeways more generally, as Bradley notes (1984, 91), is notoriously subjective.
- 7.2.8 **Iron Age / Roman:** evidence for the later prehistoric and Roman periods has not been identified within the survey area. In the immediate environs, however, we have considerable evidence in the form of the major settlement at Tosson Burgh and the presumed Romano-British rectilinear settlement to the east of Spital Hill. Neither site has been subject to invasive investigation. Their presence, however, is sufficient to suggest that the survey area is likely to have been utilised, at least as livestock pasture, during the life span of the two settlements.

### 7.3 MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL

- 7.3.1 Whilst direct evidence of early medieval activity was not recorded during the survey, this was not unexpected and indeed fits the general pattern in Northumberland. The earliest written place names post-date the Norman Conquest but are nonetheless indicative of settlement Coquetdale in the pre-Conquest period. Further evidence is provided by the tenth century cross from Rothbury and, closer to the survey area, with the re-use of a cairn at Tosson limestone quarries, from which Anglo-Saxon artefacts were recovered. The re-use of the funerary monument suggests pagan activity perhaps pre-dating the conversion of the Bernicians to Christianity by Paulinus in AD 627.
- 7.3.2 The medieval period is more productive both in terms of documentary and field evidence. Throughout the medieval and post medieval period a significant boundary existed within the survey area (between Hepple and Rothbury) which, although not formalised on the ground until the late eighteenth century, was at least as old as the earliest documentary references to the two manors. Significantly Simonside Crag, which is a highly visible landscape feature, appears to have been more or less the boundary between the two from the earliest cartographic depictions.
- 7.3.3 One of the most significant aspects to come out of the present study is the importance of the study area to routes of communication, which is represented by the plethora of hollow ways, particularly on the western side of Spital Hill. The dating of such features is problematic and is often highly subjective; however, given the extensive documented use of such routes in the medieval and post-medieval periods for the transport of livestock and other goods, the majority must surely date to these later periods if only in their surviving form. The trade in cattle increased dramatically with the Union of the Crowns in AD 1603 when vast herds of cattle were driven across the Border from Scotland and it is clear that Coquetdale was a main south route for such traffic. The adoption of the route across moorland was undoubtedly influenced by the freedom of movement afforded by the unenclosed land and the availability of pasturage on the higher slopes, but it is possible also that tax collection, or indeed the avoidance of taxes, may have enhanced the usage of the Simonside route.
- 7.3.4 It is clear that the construction of the Newtown Deer Park in AD 1275 may have played a significant factor in the development of the hollow ways. There is documentary evidence for complaints from the men of Rothbury against the erection of the park pale. This is the most gentle direct route around the Simonsides and it is likely that it formed the main route from earliest times, not least because of minimum effort; hence the complaints when the route was blocked. It may be at this time that an alternative route was sought over the top of the Simonside Hills via Spital Hill. This route was subsequently formalised or controlled, as evidenced by two cross-dykes (14 and 28) constructed across the sloping ground on the west side. The convergence of hollow ways on to single breaks in the banks suggests the former existence of gates at these points; the upper dyke curves at its west end as if to prevent incursion into the col to the south of Spital Hill. It has not been possible to securely date the dykes either from surface evidence or documentation, however, on the basis of parallels with other similar sites on both sides of the Border a Medieval date is preferred. That is not

to say that an earlier or indeed a later date is not possible. As we have seen it was known as the Clatterandway (when it is sufficiently established to be depicted on Mayson's map) in 1624, which implies that carts as well as livestock used the route. The name is often applied to Roman roads in the region where the wheels of carts clatter on the cobbled surface. The route continued into the post-medieval period and had become formalised as the Cambo Bridle Way by at least the enclosure of Tosson Common in 1806.

- 7.3.5 As with the prehistoric period, it can be assumed on the basis of poor soils and restricted sunlight that the economy during this period was livestock oriented. Evidence for field systems are rare and, the early nineteenth century enclosures apart, only the remains of a single earthen bank are present. Elements of a medieval field system were identified by Topping around Lordenshaws, though both the boundaries and ridge and furrow were seen to overly the park pale and were certainly abandoned before enclosure, which would suggest late medieval/early post medieval encroachment.

## 7.4 FOLKLORE

- 7.4.1 Fairy-beliefs are accepted to pre-date the Christian era but their character is determined both by time and space, in the sense that although the basic strand of the myth may be common over a wide area the tales often carry modifications relevant to the specific location. These tales are not fixed at one point in time but evolve as they are passed down the generations typically as nursery tales.
- 7.4.2 Thomas notes that in the seventeenth century fairy mythology settled down into something approximating to its modern form (Thomas 1971,728). A number of medieval writers, he notes, declared elves and fairies as either devils or diabolical illusions which underlines the prevailing view of theologians of the time that fairies constituted a separate devilish religion. This hostility was strengthened by the Reformation, whose theologians took away the remaining possibility that fairies might be the ghosts of the dead (Thomas 1971,729). Fairies could only be good or evil spirits, and of the two possibilities the latter was much more likely. This ties in with the Protestant myth that fairy-beliefs were an invention of the Catholic Middle Ages, which may also have had some effect. At Simonside, however, the use of the term 'duergar', which is foreign to the county, to describe these elusive creatures may be a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century gothic addition to the tales. The origin of fairy-beliefs connected with Simonside are not known though it is possible that they are of considerable antiquity.
- 7.4.3 Social anthropologists, studying the survival of fairy-beliefs among Irish peasantry, have been able to show that such notions discharge important social functions and help to enforce a certain code of conduct (Thomas 1971,730). Implicit in the tales relating to Simonside is the notion of the traveller lost on the moor at night or in the mist. Equally implicit is the trickery of the duergar in getting the traveller to fall over the edge of a crag or direct his cattle into a morass. It may be that the origin of these tales lie in cautionary advice not to stray from established routes and paths at night or in the mist as there is a very real danger of injury or death from literally stepping over the edge. This has obvious implications for our understanding of how people in the past perceived Simonside, in terms of the very real risks posed by the topography of the hills and

also gives an insight into the ways in which past communities coped with such dangers.

- 7.4.4 High places are frequently associated with fantastical beings, whether as homes to the gods, gateways to the underworld or abodes of various forms of 'fairy' folk. Simonside folk lore fits very well into the perception of the link between mountains and the supernatural, long held by traditional communities in Europe and elsewhere (Bernbaum 1997, 104, 127).

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## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 8.1 MANAGEMENT

- 8.1.1 In most instances the threat posed to the monuments is an obvious one related to modern land-use practices. The vast majority of the identified features lie within conifer plantation and whilst it is clear that relatively low level damage has been sustained in most instances it is equally clear that future felling operations have the capacity to further damage the resource. A sensitive felling strategy should be incorporated into the future management of the forested areas.
- 8.1.2 The major threat posed to the cairns on the top of the Simonside Hills is the continuing practice amongst walkers of cairn-building. This should be monitored and it may be appropriate in the longer term to include a statement on future interpretation boards and leaflets outlining the damage this may cause to the monuments.

### 8.2 FURTHER SURVEY WORK

- 8.2.1 The survey programme examined the main areas of archaeological potential, but there are some significant areas of exclusion within the study area that could not be examined because of excessively dense tree and surface vegetation which restricted access and obscured the forest floor (shown on fig 4). It is therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring be undertaken in conjunction with the Forest Enterprise thinning and clear felling programmes.
- 8.2.2 It was not possible to include the archaeological features on Beacon Hill within the time frame of this survey. It may be appropriate at this stage to include the accurate survey of the cairn and shieling falling outside the project area to the south east of the Ousen House.
- 8.2.3 Similarly, the adjacent open ground to the north-east was outside the study area and was not investigated. This includes the cowet (literally cold wet) and cockpit wells, the presumed Romano-British rectilinear enclosure, ridge and furrow, and a quarry. This area and the adjacent plantation is associated with the discovery of the late bronze age hoard. It is a relatively small and well-defined area and could be recorded with relatively low cost.
- 8.2.4 Additional recording could be undertaken at the site of the Newtown deer park pale, where substantial sections of the revetment wall survive to original height. In some areas the wall is very well-preserved and, given the high level of protection afforded to other extant sections (Grade I Listing), it may be appropriate to initiate formal protection of this section.

### 8.3 RESEARCH PROGRAMME

- 8.3.1 The survey has identified an archaeologically important relict landscape and there is a case for undertaking further archaeological research to provide an insight into the development of land-use within the region. It is recommended that a programme of sample excavation be undertaken. This may include:

1. selective re-excavation of the cairns excavated in the nineteenth century in order to establish the nature and extent of intrusion and the potential for undisturbed buried remains. It may be possible to undertake palaeo-environmental sampling of the buried soil horizons and carbon dating of suitable in situ deposits.
2. limited trenching of the cross-dykes in order to establish their construction and chronology.
3. limited test pitting within the identified rock shelters in order to establish their chronology.

8.3.2 Additional research strategies should be formulated to include detailed analysis of the existing palaeo-environmental data, including carbon dating of the pollen samples from Caudhole moss.

8.3.3 It is strongly recommended that the extent of the survey area be redefined to include adjacent areas, possibly including the extents of those historically defined farms or townships most closely associated with the survey area. This would introduce sites such as Tosson Burgh, the presumed Romano-British settlement, additional identified funerary monuments, as well as the settlement of Great Tosson. More ambitious would be the extension of the research area to include the geographically and historically defined manors of Hepple and Rothbury which would widen the range of site types and environments. This may then allow comparisons and contrasts to be made between the development of the two estates and the wide range of archaeological monuments contained within them. This would also allow comparisons to be made with other similarly defined areas throughout Northumberland and indeed, the Borders as a whole. A number of intensive holistic landscape surveys have been undertaken in neighbouring areas to the survey area in recent years, such as Garleigh Moor and Glantlees and Highshaw Farms, and by augmenting the results of these surveys it may be possible to enable a more broadly based analysis of the spatial and temporal development of settlement and land-use in the central uplands of Northumberland.

8.3.4 Given the renowned quality of the water emanating from the Simonside springs and wells, which in many cases were sufficiently important or prominent to be named, the possibility of 'sacred' springs and well-dressing practices should be considered.

#### **8.4 FUTURE PHENOMENOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

8.4.1 This part of the landscape investigation into the Simonside Hills is still at a relatively early stage. A certain amount of data has been captured, which awaits further study within the framework of the psychological approach to the analysis of "subjective" data. The fieldwork analysis phase is programmed for late 1999 / early 2000.

8.4.2 The next stage of fieldwork involves the selection of other groups of volunteers who will be prepared to walk the Simonside transects and record their own personal impressions of the salience of the rocks. It is envisaged that contributions will be sought from the following groups: (1) the Northumberland

Archaeology Group; (2) local residents from Rothbury; (3) walkers and ramblers with some prior knowledge of the uplands; and (4) tourists and visitors with little local knowledge. The target for the completion of this new fieldwork will be December 1999. If we are successful in persuading this range of people to participate in the research, we shall have a broad range of information on the salience of rocky outcrops on which to base our conclusions.

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Salway, 1913 map of one hundred and fifty square miles in the neighbourhood of Rothbury, Northumberland; with dates of the commencement of registers for parishes formed before 1832. Published 1993: *Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies*, Canterbury.

### 9.3 UNPUBLISHED PICTURES

#### 9.3.1 Colour 'postcard' shots:

*Rothbury and Simonside Hills*, c1890-1900, hill profile in background

*Cragside' view into valley from Cragside*, c1900 Sir John Adye,



### 9.3.2 *Black and white postcard photographs*

The River Coquet at Rothbury, Rothbury, Tosson Mills and Breat Tosson, c1930 all with the Simonside hills in the background.

### 9.3.3 *The Blankenburg collection* (Forest Enterprise, stored as negs. at Gosforth)

List 6/2: 3726-3727: 5696-5701: 5763-5783: 5784-5790 - none identified that relate to Simonside except: 3726-7

List 6/1 Nos. 1/876 - 1/880 (also known as Catalogue no. 5681 -5690): prints with views from and of Simonside Crags, one view from an observation hut in 1975.

List 6/1 no. 6545 - 6552: 1966 views of Simonside in negative form

List 6/1 Nos. 5681 - 5690: negative descriptions relating to Simonside of photos taken of a day out on the hills with some children in 1975.

### 9.3.4 *Paintings*

Walter Lord Northbourne, c1912 *Painting of Simonside*, owned by R Dower, Cambo

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## 9.5 ARTEFACTS

**9.5.1 *Alnwick Museum of antiquities:***

Two swords (AC Cat 230/31)

**9.5.2 *Newcastle Museum of Antiquities:***

Simonside Jet Bead Bronze Age 1821 - 3 (exhib)

Spital Hill Simonside - Food vessel 1809 23-1 (exhib)

Simonside - 2 amber beads \* 1932 - 14 - 1a/16 (on exhibition Dec 98)

Spital Hill, Simonside: Cinerary Urn 1889 23 - 2 (on exhib)

Spital Hill - Simonside - Flint scrapper 1889 - 23 - 2 (on exhib)

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APPENDIX 1  
PROJECT BRIEF

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APPENDIX 2  
PROJECT DESIGN

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Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit

Archaeological Services  
University of Durham

September 1998

**SIMONSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT  
NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
PROJECT DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION**

***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a brief from the Northumberland National Park Authority. The proposed project involves a programme of survey to record a significant archaeological landscape within the Simonside Hills, the purpose of which is to enhance the existing archaeological record and enable appropriate management and interpretation strategies to be enacted. The present specification is a joint bid by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit and the Archaeological Services of the University of Durham.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northumberland National Park Authority have offered the opportunity for Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) and Archaeological Services, University of Durham (ASUD) to submit a specification for a programme of landscape survey at Simonside Hills, Northumberland. Simonside is an area of forestry within the Northumberland National Park; it is partly owned by the Forest Enterprise, and the study will be for the most part restricted to that area owned by the Forest Enterprise. The area has a relatively rich archaeological resource, as identified by the Sites and Monuments Record, but the area has been subject to little archaeological attention in recent years. This type of marginal upland landscape has considerable potential for preserved evidence of prehistoric activity, particularly from the Bronze Age, but also from earlier periods. Extensive surveys undertaken by LUAU across similar marginal lands around the Lake District National Park typically increase the number of identified monuments by a factor of approximately 10, by comparison with earlier SMR records. It is therefore believed that in this area there is a survival of a much greater resource than presently known and that further intensive reconnaissance will reveal more extensive remains. The study area is in the immediate locale of the important Lordenshaws Iron Age fort, and also an extensive cup and ring marks and burial monuments within the Lordenshaws/Garleigh Moor areas.
- 1.2 The proposed programme is intended to provide for the conservation management of the landscape and archaeological resource and also to provide an interpretation of the archaeological landscape which will allow the establishment of Heritage Trails and improve the public awareness of its cultural significance. A series of phenomenological studies will be undertaken as part of the project, to provide a basis from which the landscape can be interpreted and fieldwork conducted, from which the ritual significance of Simonside in prehistory, possibly as a 'Sacred Mountain', can be assessed, and subsequently conservation management and interpretation of the area can be implemented.
- 1.3 Joint Contributors
- 1.3.1 The present specification is prepared jointly by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) and Archaeological Services, University of Durham (ASUD) and will exploit the particular skills of both organisations. The overall management of the project will be undertaken by LUAU, who will collaborate closely with ASUD on the various tasks specified in the brief. The documentary study will be undertaken by ASUD and the field survey will be undertaken by LUAU who will also carry out the programme of detailed photography. The general landscape photography, the assessment of the ritual significance of the area, and the integration of the fieldwork results within a phenomenological framework will be undertaken by ASUD. The report will be prepared jointly by both LUAU and ASUD. Overall editing will be undertaken by LUAU project management. The final report will be produced under the direction of the Project Director, Paul Frodsham.
- 1.3.2 **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 and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.
- 1.3.3 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 Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (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 RCHM(E) and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects.
- 1.3.4 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), Lyme Park (Peak District), the whole of the Arnside/Silverdale AONB, Cumbria/Lancashire, most of the Forest of Bowland AONB, Lancashire, 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 Arnside/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.

- 1.3.5 Of most relevance to the proposed project is an extensive detail survey (Level 2b (see LUAU levels, Appendix 1) undertaken of the forested Ennerdale Valley for the Lake District National Park and Forest Enterprise, which was intended as the basis for a management plan to allow for the preservation of the archaeological resource during a proposed felling programme. It was also intended to provide interpretation for a heritage trail linking the more significant, stable and visually impressive sites. The survey was undertaken for the most part in dense coniferous forest, an extremely difficult environment in which to undertake both extensive and intensive survey work. It required the innovation of some sophisticated survey techniques in order to achieve an acceptable level of accuracy and efficiency. Experimentation was undertaken with various different GPS systems, before a successful methodology was established. The survey was undertaken over three seasons and provided for the detailed survey of 570 sites (previously there had only been 30 on the SMR).
- 1.3.6 LUAU has also had an involvement in Landscape Characterisation programmes and has acted as a consultant to English Heritage on landscape conservation issues.
- 1.3.7 **Archaeological Services, University of Durham (ASUD):** ASUD was established in order to promote the use of academic archaeology within the contract archaeological sector, including works conducted as part of the planning process, and those within broader conservation and management areas. ASUD is committed to utilising the resources of the University, including the major environmental and conservation laboratories, and promoting the latest techniques in finds analysis and excavation procedures, and in providing an up-to-date academic framework for the interpretation of the archaeological resource. ASUD's work with the Ingram and Upper Breamish Valley Landscape Project has in many ways acted as an assessment of the RCHM(E)'s surface survey in the area, and demonstrated the value of integrating different organisations and techniques.

## 1.4 Project Design

- 1.4.1 The following project design specification sets out the objectives of the project, provides a methods statement demonstrating how these can be met, defines the resource implications of the methods statement and links these to a timetable and costings. Details of quality standards and monitoring procedures are also included.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the project is to inform future management decisions with regard to conservation matters relating to the archaeological and historical content of the forested landscape. The aims of the project are set out in the brief supplied by the Northumberland National Park. They are as follows:
- to undertake a thorough archaeological survey of Simonside and present a comprehensive account of its history from the earliest times through until the present day;
  - to provide detailed surveys of surviving ancient monuments within the study area;
  - to provide recommendations relating to the future management and interpretation of the archaeological sites within the study area.

- 2.2 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological survey of the Simonside Hills, set within a broader landscape context. It is important that the individual sites are not simply viewed as isolated points on a map, but that the archaeological record reflects their group value and their importance to the historical fabric of landscape character areas within the Simonside area.
- 2.3 **Phenomenological studies:** some considerable progress has been made in phenomenological studies in archaeology in the past decade, and landscape archaeology retains prominence in this regard. Some recent progress in making the appropriate changes in fieldwork technique have been made, centring around recording a pluralism of viewpoints (Bender *et al* 1997; Hodder 1996), although the techniques are still very much in their infancy. Two problems are dominant: the difficulty in connecting modern perceptions with those in prehistory, and how changes in place (e.g. sequences on archaeological sites) can be translated into sequences of social reproduction (and hence change and definition) in prehistory. The Simonside Landscape Project is ideally suited for these types of study, given the dominance of rocky topographical features. The anthropomorphism of topographical features in prehistory, for example through the construction of cairns on viewpoints, renders the landscape unsuited for standard trait-based reductionist models of definition. However, the potential dominance of the same topographical features in the modern landscape, where cairns on viewpoints may be replaced with seats on which to relax and enjoy a view, and where these seats are a reflection of modern management (which is an alternative to social reproduction in prehistory), provides the necessary links to address these phenomenological questions. The opportunity to provide an innovative approach to archaeological landscape management is clear, and it is obviously essential to conduct this part of the project in close collaboration with the Project Director.

### 3. METHODS STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives of the archaeological work summarised above. It is divided into four elements, desk based research (including aerial photographs), archaeological field survey, phenomenological works, and reporting.
- 3.2 Desk-based research
- 3.2.1 The data generated during the desk-based study will provide the basis for an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the Simonside Hills, and provide a firm basis from which a series of historical narratives on the area can be constructed. In particular, information that does not relate to specific archaeological sites but nevertheless provides information on community perception of the Hills throughout history, will also be sought.
- 3.2.2 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of material and with due regard to budgetary and timetable constraints. The method statement is based on the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* compiled by the IFA.
- 3.2.3 Documentary and cartographic material should concentrate on the information held by the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the National Monuments Record (NMR) and readily accessible archive material contained in the Northumberland County Record Office at Melton Park. Other potential sources of information are the Robinson Library and the Department of Archaeology library of the University of Newcastle, as well as the Black Gate Library, Newcastle which has most things published in Northumberland and includes the Dippie Dixon Collection. The British Library and the Public Records Office also often hold information and pictures not present in local collections. The records held by the Northumberland National Park Authority will also be consulted. The study will examine a broad range of material which is likely to include early maps (including estate plans etc), surveys, rentals, and post-medieval deeds, as well as photographs, paintings, eighteenth and nineteenth century antiquarian histories and topographic guides. Studies will be made of poetry, myths, legends and historical anecdotes relating to Simonside. Particular attention will be made to any cartographic information and copies of all pertinent maps will be incorporated in the project archive. In the light of the Ennerdale Survey it is also recommended that the study identify the history of planting and forest management as this

may inform the potential for survival, but also serves to enable effective planning of the survey programme. In particular it is important to establish whether any of the plantations have been hand planted (not by plough) as this has a significant impact on the survival of the archaeological resource. This will involve consulting records held by Forest Enterprise.

- 3.2.4 Published secondary sources will also be examined. The study will in particular investigate accounts of excavations undertaken by David Dippie Dixon in 1902, and as there is a requirement to locate the finds from these and other isolated discoveries, the study will also examine local museum collections.
- 3.2.5 A rapid compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical, and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken, using information available from the Ordnance Survey and ADAS. This will not only set any archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field investigation.
- 3.2.6 **Aerial Photography:** a survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This will aid the identification of surviving archaeological and structural features, that are not obscured by forestry. Aerial photographic collections to be consulted will include obliques held by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England based in Swindon, and photographs held by the Department of Archaeology library at Newcastle University and the Cambridge University Air Photographic library.
- 3.3 Field Survey Methodology
- 3.3.1 The survey will be undertaken as an enhanced Level 2-type survey (details of LUAU's survey levels are contained in Appendix 1). Sites already identified on the Northumberland SMR will be checked and recorded at the same level of consistency as other newly discovered monuments.
- 3.3.2 The survey will involve four discrete stages: Reconnaissance, Establishment of control, Mapping, and Description.
- 3.3.3 **Reconnaissance:** the reconnaissance will consist of close field walking, varying from 10m to 45m line intervals dependent on visibility (as affected by tree density), terrain and safety considerations. The reconnaissance will concentrate on areas of identified archaeological potential, and will be of a reduced intensity in areas of extreme topography. This is the most critical part of the survey programme and will be undertaken by very experienced field surveyors. The survey will aim to identify, locate and record archaeological sites and features on the ground and thus all sites noted will be recorded. Initially each site will be roughly located on a map and will be marked on the ground to enable its subsequent in-depth recording. In the light of the survey undertaken by LUAU at Ennerdale, there is a possibility that some localised areas of forest will be too densely overgrown to enable sufficient access for field walking. The extent of any areas where there is no access will be defined on maps and depicted on CAD mapping. At Ennerdale access to some of these areas was subsequently gained following forestry thinning operations.
- 3.3.4 **Survey Control:** because of the constraints of working within forested conditions a combination of Satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) and Total Station survey techniques will be utilised to satisfy the Level 2 survey requirements. GPS uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey national grid. The accuracy of an uncorrected GPS fix is only +/- 70m and there is a requirement to use differential GPS systems to correct the fix, and in this way producing accuracies of up to +/- 0.01m (with some equipment). There are different methods of applying the corrections either using post-processed or real time systems. Experience of using GPS within the forests of Ennerdale has demonstrated that only some GPS techniques are workable and can provide an adequate level of accuracy (+/- 2m). The problem is that forest canopy cover reduces incoming radio signals and the lower the altitude angle of the transmitting satellite, the greater the interference. Any real time correction signal transmitted from a ground based transmitter is lost and similarly real time correction signals from a geo-stationary satellite are usually lost, because these satellites are inevitably at a relatively low altitude angle. Experience of survey within Ennerdale Forest has shown that only post-processed differential GPS can be relied upon to provide a reliable fix and even then it needs to be undertaken in an area with

thin canopy cover or in clearings. The canopy cover will reduce the number of satellites that can be received but will usually always provide at least a low level fix ( $c \pm 2m-5m$  accuracy).

- 3.3.5 Survey Control at each site group will be located using the GPS and each base line will be adjusted using a Total Station. The resulting survey control will be accurate to  $\pm 1-5m$  with respect to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid but internally will be accurate to  $\pm 5-10mm$ . This survey control methodology will therefore be very economic and provide an acceptable level of locational accuracy. Permanent survey control markers will be left on site to enable further survey work in the future, so long as the trees remain unfelled.
- 3.3.6 **Archaeological Detail Mapping:** the proposed Level 2 survey will comprise a detailed record of all archaeological monuments within the survey area, but will only survey selective topographic detail. Although the survey data will include altitude information this will not be used for the production of the Level 2 survey; instead the majority of the topographic survey detail will be abstracted from vectorised 1:10,000 digital mapping to be provided by the Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA). Under the NNPA copyright agreement with the Ordnance Survey all copies of the digital data are to be returned to NNPA on completion of the project.
- 3.3.7 Site groups will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a data logger. The digital data is transferred onto a portable computer for manipulation and transfer to other digital or hard media. Film plots will be output via a plotter. The archaeological detail is drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on the plots with respect to survey markers. Some topographic detail is also surveyed if it is archaeologically significant or is in the vicinity of archaeological features.
- 3.3.8 **Site Description and Assessment:** each site will be recorded on *pro-forma* sheets on which will be recorded details of location, extent, period, character, condition, fragility, group value and accessibility. Each category will be given high, medium or low scores in the field. At the post-fieldwork stage a similar score will be placed on amenity potential. This can be calculated against its accessibility, its potential for interpretation, and its importance as a visual feature in the landscape. These values will be averaged to provide an overall grade for the site at the data analysis stage. The site group descriptions and assessments will be incorporated into a computerised database (Access 97) and can be digitally transferred into the Sites and Monuments Record.
- 3.3.9 **Photographic Survey:** a full photographic archive will be generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. The landscape photography will be undertaken from around the study area and from the top of the Simonside ridge. The viewpoints will be recorded on maps to enable repeat photography, and it is proposed to take a variety of photographs on different days and conditions. Detailed photographs will be taken of all sites using a scale and where possible magnetic numbers on a metal plate will be used to identify the individual site.
- 3.3.10 All photography will be recorded on photographic *pro-forma* sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. Photography will for the most part be undertaken using 35mm cameras and will use both colour transparency and black and white film. It is also proposed to use a digital camera for detailed shots. This will allow the incorporation of a digital image of specific sites into the Access database form, and therefore accessing the records of an individual site from the database will insert a photograph of the site onto the screen. The use of photography in this way considerably enhances the usability of a database and greatly assists the analysis of the landscape. The use of an interactive graphic database is presented as an option.
- 3.3.11 **Geochemical Survey:** a trial geochemical survey will be conducted over two areas of the higher (unforested) ground. One area will be over a known archaeological monument, another where no monuments are visible, but where subsurface archaeological features may exist. The objective of the exercise is to test the validity of the technique in an upland area of this type, and to assess the probability of sub-surface archaeological deposits existing in areas unsusceptible to surface survey. The results will be integrated into the ongoing programme of geochemical survey of upland sites in Northumberland.

3.3.12 **Palaeoenvironmental assessment:** through consultation with the Environmental Archaeology Unit (Durham University), a series of cores will be taken in order to establish in which area (in association with archaeological deposits) deposits with environmental potential survive.

### 3.4 Phenomenology And the Ritual Significance of Simonside

3.4.1 **Digital Terrain Model:** at present, there is no opportunity to visualise the views from many of the sites because of the surrounding forestry, which also impacts on the views from points above the forested areas. Given the importance of viewpoints within phenomenological studies and the absurdity of reducing landscapes to two-dimensional archaeological surveys without reference to topographical features, a digital terrain model (DTM) will be generated for the study area. The aim of the exercise is to present the archaeological resource within the context of the topography, but unencumbered by trees or other modern features. It will allow for the computerised reconstruction of the landscape in the prehistoric periods and can also provide topographic viewpoints from the site locations. The terrain model will be based on the OS 1:10,000 contours, and the resulting DTM will be superimposed with the archaeological detail from the survey and output as a wire mesh model within a CAD system (AutoCAD 14). The model can be rendered within the CAD system to enable the presentation of a computerised surface. Because of financial constraints, this model will be constructed as a prototype under the supervision of P Clogg. The model will be utilised to assess (in consultation with Dr J Chapman) the value of this type of computerised visualisation in phenomenological studies, with particular reference to studies on the constraints of GIS systems in relation to studies of mind (e.g. Llobera 1996; Forte 1995).

3.4.2 **Assessment of Ritual Significance:** the studies will proceed on the following basis:

- the collation of information on similar projects, particularly concerning rocky landscapes;
- the collation of ethnographic data, from 'sacred' sites around the world;
- the recording by video footage of the processes by which the field team identifies, defines and records archaeological surface data;
- the recording by video footage of (and from) a series of viewpoints from throughout the project area, and from individual archaeological sites;
- the creation of a series of alternative video narratives based on different peoples' perspectives of the area, both archaeological and non-archaeological;
- to define, establish and implement a series of additional criteria for the recording of individual 'sites' as part of the standard formulaic process;
- the collation of all project data, the construction of a single standard archaeological narrative, and a series of alternative possibilities;
- the establishment of a seminar to examine the significance of perspectives obtained by all different parties;
- an assessment of methods of presenting data, for management, public and academic purposes;
- a comparison between phenomenological studies and those recorded above, under 3.2.8;
- the definition of a series of phenomenological techniques in light of the Simonside experience, and the significance of the Simonside contribution to the progress of the academic debate;
- the establishment of a methodology for integrating phenomenological perspectives into modern management techniques;

- the establishment of the significance of the Simonside landscape within the prehistory of the immediate region and of Northumberland.

### 3.5 Project Archive and assessment

- 3.5.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork 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. 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. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on 3.5" disks as ASCII files, if appropriate. Digital survey data will be provided in a suitable format for incorporation into a Geographical Information System (GIS) if required. A synopsis (normally the index to the archive and the report) should be placed in the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record.
- 3.5.2 **Digital Presentation:** the survey data will be digitally transferred into a CAD system (AutoCAD) and superimposed with vectorised digital OS 1:10,000 mapping to be provided by NNPA. The dimensioned site drawings will be digitally superimposed onto the raw survey data, thereby ensuring a high level of both numeric and representational accuracy. The use of CAD dispenses with the manual production of drawings and considerably increases the efficiency of the preparation of completed drawings, as well as enhancing the flexibility of map output. The final output drawings can be output in a DXF format for incorporation into other CAD or GIS systems. The drawings can be output at any required scale, although the accuracy of generation assumes that the drawings will not be reproduced at scales of greater than 1:50.
- 3.5.3 The survey data will be digitally superimposed with OS 1:10,000 survey data to enable a fully interactive graphic presentation of the survey data within an appropriate topographic context. This would therefore nullify the need for a 1:10,000 scale overlay plot, although one can easily be plotted if required. The report would present the survey results at varying scales from the general locational view to the detailed presentation of individual monuments.
- 3.5.4 A digital copy of the archive will be passed to NNPA on completion of the survey alongside the final report. The format of the digital data will be established with the client prior to submission but can be presented in a form compatible with the MapInfo GIS system used by NNPA.
- ### 3.6 Reporting
- 3.6.1 The report will identify areas of defined archaeology and an assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the material, within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities, will be made. The potential for further archaeological fieldwork will be examined both in relation to individual sites and for the estate as a whole. The report will make a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the individual sites within the study area.
- 3.6.2 **Content:** the full report will consist of an acknowledgements statement, lists of contents, executive summary, introduction summarising the brief and project design and any agreed departures from them, geomorphological and historical background, interpretative account of remains found, an assessment of the ritual significance of Simonside, conclusions, recommendations for the management of the resource, a gazetteer of sites with grading of significance, assessment of potential (in accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*), list of archive contents and bibliography. Illustrative material will include location maps and plans.
- 3.6.3 It is anticipated that as a result of the phenomenological studies, a separate section will be included. Additional illustrative material, including maps, diagrams, and colour photographs (including images downloaded from the video) will be included. This section will aim to cover the points raised above (*Section 3.3.2*), and will be integrated with the other sections in consultation with the Project Director.

- 3.6.4 **Landscape History:** the report will be presented on the basis of the results of the field and documentary study. It will examine the factual evidence for all periods of activity and in the absence of any environmental or absolute dating an attempt will be made to identify the date, character and function of the principal monument groups on the basis of local and national typologies. The narrative will be presented chronologically and will seek to define the development of the landscape from the earliest activity through to the present in addition to focusing on the possible ritual and symbolic significance of elements of the prehistoric landscape. It will examine the extent to which the landscape served an agricultural or funerary/ritual function and will identify any significant spatial grouping of monuments. The study will examine the extent to which the neighbouring medieval settlement impacted upon the study area and also the impact of the Newtown deerpark upon the landscape. All identifiable elements, contributing to the diachronistic palimpsest that is the Simonside landscape, will be referenced.
- 3.6.5 **Management Recommendations:** the report will examine the archaeological condition, survival, stability and significance of the archaeological monuments and landscapes. On this basis the report will make recommendations for the protection and management of the landscapes in the course of normal forestry operations and will be based on considerable comparable experience of similar operations undertaken in Ennerdale Forest. It will highlight any sites under threat where, if their significance requires it, measures to safeguard their integrity should be implemented. Careful felling can preserve even the most fragile monuments if the operators are aware of the existence during any clear fell; recommendations will therefore incorporate provision for the form and extent of any marking of monuments that will be required to allow their protection. It will also provide guidelines for the clear fell techniques that are best designed to preserve archaeological monuments.
- 3.6.6 **Interpretation:** the report will indicate where any potential may exist for on-site interpretation and will identify and prioritise the need for any further work, including documentary research, or more detailed survey, either to establish the true significance of the site or as an aid to on-site interpretation. The degree of structural information presented as part of the Heritage trail/trails is a clear issue that the phenomenological works will address.
- 3.6.7 **Further works:** a series of possible further works will be presented as part of the final report. In particular it is anticipated that the restriction of the survey to the winter season leaves many issues relating to climate, seasonal cycles and cultural cycles unaddressed. These may include selective excavation or more detailed survey works in specific areas of the landscape, further geochemical works or other types of non-intrusive survey, proposals for community participation, proposals for a series of academic papers, further use of GIS and DTMs, further management possibilities, the possibility of multi-media presentations, recommendations for seminar/lecture presentations to the public and academic worlds.
- 3.6.8 **Output:** ten bound copies of the full report will be submitted to the Northumberland National Park Authority. Each report will be illustrated by a selection of black and white (7" x 5") prints and maps.

#### 4. OTHER MATTERS

##### 4.2 Access

- 4.1.1 In the first instance the Forest Enterprise should contact any tenants or commoners in writing, before the start of field work. LUAU request that a map detailing the properties of all landholders is made available to them so that their representatives can make contact on the ground with the landholders prior to entering land as a matter of courtesy.

##### 4.2 Health and safety

- 4.2.1 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the excavation, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The LUAU Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual, as well as the Lancaster University Health and Safety Statement. Risk assessments are undertaken as



a matter of course for all projects, and will anticipate the potential hazards arising from the project. In particular action will be taken to protect against eye injury from working in low, dense woodland undergrowth. Eye protection will be worn by field workers at all times.

#### 4.3 Insurance

- 4.3.1 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 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 £3m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

ASUD is covered by the following insurance policies, which are renewed annually:

Employer's liability:

G.A.Bonus PLC, Policy No. 01LG50620LTY

Sum: £25,000,000

Date of Expiry: 31.07.99

Public liability:

Sun Alliance International, Policy No. H57K/SQ51088652

Sum: £10,000,000

Date of Expiry: 31.07.99

Professional indemnity:

Sun Alliance International, Policy No. 57A/SA00262265

Sum: £4,000,000

Date of Expiry: 17.02.99

#### 4.4 Working Hours

- 4.4.1 Survey works will be undertaken on the basis of a five day week, within daylight hours only. It is anticipated that because of the use of academic members of staff and volunteers for certain aspects of the project, some works will be conducted during weekends.

#### 4.5 Project Monitoring

- 4.5.1 Monitoring meetings will be established with the NNPA at the outset of the project. It is anticipated that these will involve a preliminary meeting at the commencement of the project and possibly progress meetings during fieldwork.
- 4.5.2 LUAU will inform the NNPA of all significant developments, and any potential departures from the agreed programme will be discussed and agreed with them prior to implementation.

### 5. WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The phases of work will comprise:

#### 5.1.1 **Project Preparation**

6 days will be required to set up the project.

#### 5.1.2 **Desk Top Study**

A 20 day period is required to collate all the available data.

#### 5.1.3 **Field Survey**

A 25 day period is required for the field survey.

#### 5.1.4 **Assessment of Ritual Significance**

A 20 day period would be required to complete this element.

#### 5.1.5 **Archive and Reporting**

A 15 day period would be required to complete this element.

5.1.6 The combined LUAU and ASUD team can execute the project at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the Client. Phenomenological studies will be conducted throughout the project period, and there is an overlap between each phase illustrated above. The programme is scheduled to be completed by 29th January 1999, subject to being awarded the work during the week of 5th October 1998.

## 6. **OUTLINE RESOURCES**

### 6.1 Staffing

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

6.1.2 The documentary study will be undertaken by **Stewart Davies** BA, whose experience as project historian on the Ingram project has demonstrated his ability to uncover the most comprehensive documents. Additional documentary study, particularly in relation to archaeological and phenomenological data, will be conducted by the ASUD team.

6.1.3 The field survey will be led by **Iain Hedley** BA AIFA (LUAU Project Officer) who has considerable experience of field survey work, including prehistoric landscapes, and is very familiar with the archaeology of the Simonside Hills. He has been closely involved in the assessment of the nation's industrial heritage under English Heritage's Industrial Monuments Protection Programme. This work has involved the assessment of a wide range of industries including Stone Quarrying, Lime, and both the Ferrous and Non-ferrous Metal Industries. He has considerable experience of survey work on the nearby Otterburn and Longframlington areas.

6.1.4 The ritual assessment will be undertaken by the ASUD team: **Dr J Chapman's** research interests are currently based around the phenomenological study of landscapes, in particular the social structures of cosmology using artefacts, monuments and landscapes (he is currently studying rocky landscapes (similar to Simonside) in Bulgaria and Romania (Chapman 1997)), and the way that prehistoric communities incorporate natural features into their cultural identity. Dr Chapman is eager to retain an active involvement in the project, and it is anticipated that his comparative experience of similar studies will be invaluable.

6.1.5 **Professor AF Harding** has a well-known record in involvement in the archaeology of the North of England, particularly in relation to burial monuments and ritual deposits of Bronze Age date. He is currently conducting (along with Phil Clogg) a study of swords from the region, and is keen to include the sword from Simonside within the study as part of his role as a consultant to the project.

6.1.6 Both Dr Chapman and Professor Harding also have extensive active interests in the archaeology of eastern Europe, and it is hoped through these links to be able to promote the Simonside landscape and the National Park on a European-wide level.

6.1.7 **Peter Carne** (Field Officer, ASUD) is employed by the University of Durham to promote the integration of contract archaeological works with academic archaeology, of which this project provides an excellent opportunity, particularly with the involvement of Lancaster University. His interest in the upland landscapes of Northumberland is reflected in his commitment to the Ingram and Upper Breamish Valley Landscape Project, and his involvement in this project will focus

around the integration of phenomenological studies into the standard methodologies for interpreting landscapes by recording surface remains, and for providing management information on the usual reductionist formulae.

- 6.1.8 **Phil Clogg** (Manager, ASUD) will be managing the project on behalf of ASUD, and will also be conducting a pilot study on the use of geochemical survey over this type of landscape, as well as the supervision (via his digital imaging skills, most recently reflected in his work on rock art) of the construction of a Digital Terrain Model for Simonside by students at the University.

## APPENDIX 3

### FOLKLORE TEXTS

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#### 1. STORY FROM NEWSPAPER MORPETH GAZETTE 1889:

And once upon a time did not the caverns and recesses amid the rocky heights of Simonside nightly witness the unearthly revels of a tribe of ugly elves and dwarfs - so says tradition - amongst whom it was dangerous for the solitary wanderer to venture, and is not the dismal "Caudhole Moss," behind "Spy Law" - the home of Will o' the Wisp, who, in former years, led belighted and unwary travellers by his treacherous luring light into the depth of the bottomless heaf.

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#### 2. THE DUERGAR (F. GRICE, FOLK-TALES OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, 130-3)

Not very far from the town of Rothbury in Northumberland lies a range of dangerous hills called the Simonside Hills. The shepherds who live on these hills do not care to be away from home after night has fallen, or when the fog is thick, for there are many ravines and steep places where one false step in the dark or in the mist may mean death. Much less do strangers, who do not know these hills as well as the shepherds, care to be lost in them. Indeed, few strangers ever attempt to cross the moors in the dark. But once a young man who was trying to reach the town of Rothbury found himself benighted there. He had meant to reach the town before sunset, but he had lost his way, and now found himself many miles from his destination, without a single light to guide him. He tried to keep to his path in the dark, but soon lost it. A shepherd, by recognising this hill and that stream, might have picked his way home; but it was the first time that this traveller had been among these hills, so very wisely he decided to look for some little cave or sheltered place where he could spend the night. He was just about to settle down with his back against a big overhanging rock that he thought would screen him from the wind, when he saw not very far away, a glimmering light. "Perhaps it is some shepherd's house," he thought, "and I can shelter there." So he began to pick his way very carefully through the bracken and over the stones towards the light.

When he reached it, he found that the light came from a little hut built of wood and roofed with thick sods. It was just such a hut as the shepherds sometimes use during the lambing time, and the light came from a little fire that was burning on the floor between two rough grey stones. On the right-hand side were two great logs as thick as gate-posts. How relieved the traveller was when he saw this snug little place, for he knew that the greatest enemy of the benighted wanderer was the cold night air. He piled some of the smaller sticks on the fire, pulled his coat round him, and sat down on one of the grey stones.

He had scarce sat down when into the hut walked a most surprising little figure. It was a dwarf, who stood no higher than the traveller's knee. His coat was made out of a lamb's skin, his trousers and shoes of moleskins, and his hat of green moss, decorated with a tall feather from a cock-pheasant. He came in without a greeting, and sat down on the other grey stone, and scowled at the traveller as if to ask what he was doing there. The young man was surprised and too startled to ask who the fairy was, and by-and-by, when he recovered himself, he was glad he had not spoken, for the little man kept on scowling at him as if seeking for some reason to pick a quarrel. "This is a duergar," said the traveller to himself. "I must do nothing to offend him, for I know that these dwarfs mean harm to mortals, and fly into a rage very quickly." So he kept still and stared back at the dwarf.

Presently the fire began to die down, and the traveller could feel the cold air creeping into the room. It began to nip his fingers and his toes. Nevertheless, he did not stir, until the cold began to creep up his arms and legs and make him shiver. The dwarf did not seem to feel the cold at all, but at last the man felt that he could stand it no longer. Reaching forward he took a handful of the small sticks that lay on the right-hand side of the fire, and threw them on the dying embers. No sooner had he done that than the duergar gave him a worse scowl than ever. Leaning over to the gate-post - and through it was twice his size and twice as thick as his own body, he smashed it across his knee as if it were matchwood. Then he threw the pieces on the fire, as if to say, "Any child can break pieces of kindling sticks. Take the other post, and see if you can break that." But the traveller, seeing that this was a kind of trap for him, never stirred, but kept on staring at the dwarf as motionless as a statue.

By-and-by the fire died down again, but the man kept on staring at the dwarf and never moving a finger, and the dwarf scowled back at him. The room grew darker and darker and colder and colder, till suddenly, away down in a valley, a cock crew. And as soon as the cock had crowed, the dwarf disappeared, and with

him the hut and the fire. The traveller looked up. The sky in the east was turning grey, and by its dim light he saw that he was still sitting on the big grey stone. But it was the topmost stone of a dark, rugged precipice. Had he leaned over to the left to reach the other gate-post, as the dwarf had challenged him to do, he would have fallen down the cliff and killed himself.

### **3. THE SIMONSIDE DWARFS (M. TYNDALE, 1930, LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE OF NORTHUMBRIA, 103-107)**

About the middle of Northumberland, on the outskirts of that wild stretch of moorland which covers so many miles of it, overlooking Rothbury and the vale of Coquet, the Simonside Hills rear their shaggy heads to a height that might almost be called mountains, for often the clouds come down to sit upon their rugged shoulders. And then it is that those impish little dwarfs have the time of their lives - or used to in the olden days; one does not often hear of them now.

They were ugly, cross-grained little beings, who delighted in leading belated travellers astray among these trackless wastes, often landing them in bogs, or "moss-hags" as the local people called them. Often the country folk would see or hear these strange small people if they happened to be abroad after dark, especially the shepherds, whose work often kept them out late.

You don't believe in these dwarfs? Neither did a certain man who lived some time in the eighteenth century, and vowed that he would go out one night and prove that all the stories about them were pure fable.

He himself had once heard "Roarie," in a thick wood, and had proved that this fearsome "bogle" was nothing more alarming than an old owl! Dwarfs, indeed! The very idea of it! Well, he'd just show them.

So one dark night he set out, staff in hand, and warmly wrapped up in his thick Tosson plaid. For a long while he wandered about without seeing or hearing anything astir, not even the wild birds and beasts whose sounds and movements he was so sure had been mistaken by nervous folks for those of the supposed dwarfs.

But, just as he was about to go back home, he suddenly took it into his head to pretend that he was lost. That would settle the question, if anything would. So he began to call out, in the old local dialect, "Tint! tint!"

The effect was instantaneous. He saw a light ahead, like the glow of a cottage window, and cautiously - for the night was dark and the path rough - he picked his way in that direction. But very soon he found himself confronted with a deep hollow left by someone digging out peat, which was now half-full of muddy water. So that was the game, was it? He was cured of his scepticism, but quite determined not to be outdone. So he picked up a loose piece of turf and threw it into the moss-hag, where it fell with a resounding splash. At once the light went out.

"Oh-o!" chuckled the adventurer; "they think I have fallen in and drowned myself, do they? But as he turned back he thought he would make just one more attempt. So again he shouted, "Tint! tint!" This time three of the dwarfs appeared and began to chase him with lighted torches, and he turned and ran for dear life. Not far, however. For he soon saw that he was hemmed in on all sides by the repulsive little creatures, each carrying a lighted torch in one hand and a club in the other. They came nearer and nearer to him, waving their clubs as though they meant to attack in force. The only thing to do was to attack first. He charged at them with his heavy staff, and apparently knocked one down - though he did not feel as though he had touched anything solid. They all vanished, though, and he had a moment's breathing space.

But it was not for long. The next moment they were back again with reinforcements, crowds upon crowds of hideous, menacing faces and murderous-looking clubs, till the sheer horror of the situation overcame him, and he sank senseless to the ground.

There he remained until the morning light had chased the demons back to their dens. And then, at last, he was able to make his way home unmolested.

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(after Tyndale) Once a benighted traveller, seeing a welcome light ahead, toiled up a very steep and stony path to what looked like a hut. Going in, he saw two rough grey stones, which might serve for seats, and between them a wood-fire was burning, which evidently had not long been left. Two old gate-posts were

lying near, as though ready to be chopped up for fuel, and some smaller wood was strewn about. Gathering up some of this, he made up the fire, and sat down on one of the stones. Presently in came a little dwarf or brownie, who calmly seated himself upon the other stone.

The traveller had been well taught by his wise old granny how to act in such an emergency. He just sat stock still without speaking, and tried to stare the other down. At length the fire burned low, and the man could not help shivering, for the bitter wind seemed to sweep right through the rough little building. So he could not resist the impulse to replenish the fire, and, picking up a long stick off the floor, he broke it across his knee and threw the pieces on the embers.

The dwarf gave him a look of the keenest contempt, and, lifting one of the heavy gate-posts as though it had been a featherweight, he broke that across his knee and tossed the pieces on the now cheerful blaze. The man had had enough. Fire or no fire, he never stirred again till the day dawned. And then he had the shock of his life. The dwarf had vanished, that was to be expected; but the hut had vanished too, save only the dead white ashes of last night's fire. And the stone on which he sat was one of the highest crags, while beneath him was a mighty precipice. He trembled to think what might have happened had he not remained motionless till daylight showed him where he really was!

## APPENDIX 4

### DETAIL SURVEY GAZETTEER

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**Site Number** 1  
**NGR** NZ 02583 99860  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**SMR No** NZ09NW5  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 8.95m Width 8.4m Height 0.45m  
**Description**

Large sub-circular mound of stones with excavated central area. Spoil from the excavation forms a ring around the edge of the feature and is particularly prominent on the northern downslope side. The central area includes two open cists. The southernmost measures 0.35m x 0.77m internally with sides of rough vertical slabs up to 0.45m high. The northern cist has a quadrilateral rather than a rectangular shape and measures 0.77m x 1.2m with slabs up to 0.5m high. Two large capstones lie nearby. This site is believed to be that of Cairn No 7 excavated by Dixon *et al* (Dixon 1892, 27-29).

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**Site Number** 2 - 4  
**NGR** NZ 02580 99850  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Cut through by modern forest tracks.  
**Dimensions** Length up to 40m Width up to 3.7m Height 0.35m  
**Description**

Three sections of hollow way, running broadly north/south, exposed in an area of felling around Cairn 1. The earthworks continued to the north and south but were not fully traced.

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**Site Number** 5  
**NGR** NZ 02643 99825  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Possible cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Poor; sited along fire break, partially tree covered  
**Dimensions** Length 13.8m Width 11.2m Height 0.3m  
**Description**

An ill-defined, low-lying sub-circular mound with a slightly domed profile, situated on sloping ground within a forest break. Substantial moss covered blocks protrude from the surface. The central area appeared disturbed, with the vertical face of a single stone exposed. Although this is not an entirely convincing as a cairn, the disturbance may reflect invasive antiquarian investigation.

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**Site Number** 6  
**NGR** NZ 02625 99803  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Possible cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Cist is in imminent danger of collapse  
**Dimensions** Length 7.8m Width 6.5m Height 0.35m  
**Description**

A poorly defined, low lying mound with an irregular top. There was a slight bank around the outer edge composed of large moss covered stones. The central area includes a sub-rectangular depression with a single vertically set, but possibly natural, stone on the south side. The depression may reflect antiquarian

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investigation. The western side of the putative cist comprises a dry stone masonry edge, and the blocks merge very closely into a well built face. The cist has been disturbed by animal activity.

**Site Number** 7  
**NGR** NZ 02565 99738  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 12.4m Width 11.7m Height 0.45m

**Description**

A poorly-defined and irregular sub-circular mound, with a raised profile on the northern side. It occupies a prominent position on the edge of flat ground which slopes downward to the north. A large triangular stone occupies the northern side of the central area of the mound. The weathering pattern on the northern vertical face, consists of water-worn channels, and absence of weathering on the upper surface, suggests that it has been physically moved to this location. Although the mound is obscured by heather, it appears to be undisturbed.

**Site Number** 8  
**NGR** NZ 02565 99738  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 7.9m Width 6.5m Height up to 1m

**Description**

A relatively small but prominent, sub-circular mound with a raised profile on the northern downslope side which is marked by a number of large stones. The southern side merges into the flatter ground to the south. The central area has been excavated and a rectangular cist, measuring 1.5m x 0.75m and defined by vertically set stones, is exposed. A large stone on the northern side of the cist may be the capstone.

**Site Number** 9  
**NGR** NZ 02553 99732  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Medieval - Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 86m Width up to 6.7m Depth up to 1m

**Description**

Part of an extensive, meandering hollow way, only partly surveyed, extending past the line of cairn (8).

**Site Number** 10  
**NGR** NZ 02551 99692  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Possible cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Poor  
**Dimensions** Length 15.7 Width 9.2m Height 0.45m

**Description**

An irregular, low mound with an undulating profile; it has been partly obscured by heather. The central area includes an irregular depression defined on the south and east sides by vertical stones. A substantial stone on the north side may be a natural outcrop or boulder.



**Site Number** 11  
**NGR** NZ 02534 99703  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Upper  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** forested  
**Dimensions** Length 37.5m Width 7m Depth 1.5m  
**Description**  
 A pronounced hollow way with a rounded base, which is aligned north/south.

**Site Number** 12  
**NGR** NZ 02574 99920  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cross-dyke  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate; planted  
**Dimensions** Length 35.4m Width 4.4m Height 0.7m  
**Description**

A stone and earth dyke orientated north-east/south-west, which curves southwards at the south-west end. It has a broadly symmetrical profile with the occasional upright stone. No evidence of an associated ditch could be discerned. The bank appears to continue as (13) and (14) but has been dissected in a number of places by hollow ways and a modern forestry road. A hollow way at the north-east end may be a contemporary throughway.

**Site Number** 13  
**NGR** NZ 02588 99935  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cross-dyke  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate, planted  
**Dimensions** Length 8.5m Width 2.5m Height 0.5m  
**Description**

An earth and stone dyke of similar form to dyke (12). It is oriented east/west and was a continuation of (12) from which it is separated by a hollow way.

**Site Number** 14  
**NGR** NZ 02634 99931  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cross-dyke  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 108m Width up to 5.4m Height 0.5m  
**Description**

An earth and stone cross-dyke of similar form to (12). It is oriented east/west and delimits a flat boggy ground to the north from the gentle slope on the south side. There is an irregular "kink" in the bank marked by a large recumbent stone (17). At the east end the course of the bank swings towards the north, a point marked by several large stones (up to 2m across) in the main body of the bank, and terminates at a natural south facing outcrop. This inturn towards the outcrop is marked by larger rocks forming the bank material. The bank has been breached by forestry vehicles in a number of places.

**Site Number** 15  
**NGR** NZ 02583 99972  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn

**SMR** NZ09NW6  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate; planted around the edges  
**Dimensions** Length 10.6m Width 9m Height 0.75-1.25m

**Description**

A large circular mound of stone defined by heather cover and an absence of conifers. No definite cist was discernible though the central area is noticeably loose and irregular, and there were hollows east to the south and east of the centre. A small modern cairn has been heaped on the northern side. Given the prominence of the cairn, the heather cover and absence of planting, and the relative lack of excavation evidence, it may be the site of Willy's Cairn. Although Dixon refers to Willie's Cairn (1892) to describe the locations of other cairns, nowhere in his text does he suggest that it was excavated.

**Site Number** 16  
**NGR** NZ 02615 99973  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Poor; planted  
**Dimensions** Length 12.8m Width 9.4m Height

**Description**

An extensive, low grass-covered oval mound with three large prominent upright stones on the west side. A hollow close to the northern edge is marked by several large stones up to 0.75m across.

**Site Number** 17  
**NGR** NZ 02660 99925  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Structure  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Poor; planted  
**Dimensions** Length 5.2m Width 3.1m Height 0.4m

**Description**

A semi-circular feature incorporated into bank (14). At this point the bank's profile is largely asymmetrical with the north side defined by a large recumbent stone which measures 1.50m x 0.33m with a vertical face 0.60m high.

It does not appear to be a structural element of the bank, but may represent the remains of a small shelter.

**Number** 18  
**NGR** NZ 02735 99913  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Building  
**Period** Shelter  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 5.3m Width up to 2.25m Height up to 1m

**Description**

Two lengths of drystone wall abutting the south face of a 1.6m high rock outcrop. The walls consists of roughly squared drystone masonry standing to six courses to the west and four to the east. The remnants of an additional course can be discerned on top of the rock outcrop suggesting that the structure formerly extended to the full height of the rock face. The eastern wall measures 0.74m wide and extends 2.25m to the south whilst the western wall measures 0.6m wide and extends 2.1m to the south. The walls splay 0.4m at the south end. The walls are likely to represent the remains of a building.

**Site Number** 19  
**NGR** NZ 02818 99885  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Possible rock shelter  
**Period** Modern

**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 3.4m Width 2.5m Height 0.98m

**Description**

A prominent overhang of hard sandstone above an eroded softer bed. The most extensive part of the overhang is situated at the east end of the outcrop. At this point a relatively recent drystone wall 1m high has been erected around the south side, thus forming a shelter measuring 3.4m (north/south) x 2.5m (East/west) x 0.98m high internally. A narrow entrance is situated to the south-east. Although obscured by modern activity, it is possible that the site has been used as a refuge in earlier periods.

**Site Number** 20  
**NGR** NZ 02641 99997  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate; excavated  
**Dimensions** Length 10.4m Width 10m Height ?

**Description**

A low cairn with an excavated central area which includes the exposed remains of a cist. The cist was obscured by waterlogging but appeared to be irregular in form. A large stone, probably the capstone, lies on the north side. A small bank of material, presumably excavation spoil, extends to the north and south. A series of four large stones up to 1m across lie to the west and presumably originated from the cairn. On the south-west side a small raised oval area, approximately 2m diameter, covered in moss may be excavation spoil or an additional small cairn.

**Site Number** 21  
**NGR** NU 02707 00026  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 8.6m Width 7.1m Height 0.75m

**Description**

A circular mound composed of medium sized stones, up to 0.4m across, with an excavated central area. The mound is largely defined by a crescent of excavation spoil running from the south-east to south-west sides. The remains of two cists, situated slightly off centre to the south-west and north-east, are exposed in the central area. The south-west cist is completely open with a large stone, presumably the capstone, situated to the west and slightly overlies the west side of the cist. The cist itself is formed by four squared, vertically set, sandstone slabs forming a crude rectangle measuring 1.2m x 0.5m. The precise nature of the squaring of the stones is unique within the survey area and is reminiscent of cut stone as opposed to the typically rough nature of the stones employed in the construction of the other recorded cists. This site corresponds to Dixon's Cairn 2 (1892, 25-6) which he describes as a perfect well-shaped cist composed of four clean level-sided slabs. The cist contained an inhumation burial of a male aged between 25 and 40 years of age and between 5'2" and 5'4" tall with a round-headed skull. The northern cist has a possible large capstone in situ although it is not mentioned by Dixon (*ibid.*). It would appear that the stone may have been too heavy to remove and the excavation was therefore undertaken from the east side. No evidence of vertical stone sides could be discerned. It is perhaps significant that Dixon states that the cairn was not fully excavated and that further artefacts may be found in the cairn. This may explain the unusual side-on method of excavation, possibly executed by none antiquarians simply looking for treasure.

**Site Number** 22  
**NGR** NU 02755 00031  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Possible cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate to Poor  
**Dimensions** Length 13.1m Width 17.2m Height up to 0.75

**Description**

Sub-circular platform cut into natural slope on the south side with a rough bank on the north/north-east side. The platform consists predominantly of angular stones up to 0.6m across, exposed in a hollow left by the roots of a fallen tree on the north-east side. The site is generally ill-defined, and particularly so on the southern side where there is no clearly defineable edge.

**Site Number** 23  
**NGR** NU 2742 100061  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 6.7m Width 5.3m Height up to 0.55m

**Description**

A circular bank of stones up to 0.55m high, encompassing a depressed central area in which a roughly linear alignment of stones was observed. The cairn appears to have been excavated with the spoil forming a ring around the circumference. A slight depression in the centre may relate to a cist.

**Site Number** 24  
**NGR** NU 02743 00060  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Middle  
**Site type** Cairn and Rectilinear Structure  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Forested  
**Dimensions** Length 12.3m Width 10.7m Height

**Description**

A prominent irregular mound of stones, often loose, situated 3m to the north-west of cairn (23). The stones measured up to 0.6m across and appeared to be randomly heaped except in the south-west part where possible drystone wall fragments form an approximate rectangular plan. This has been tentatively identified as a possible Medieval/Post-Medieval structure (bothy/shieling ?). Further building remains may be obscured by wall collapse. A small, later cairn of stones has been erected on the north-east side. The site probably represent the remains of an original cairn which has been considerably disturbed by later activity.

**Site Number** 25  
**NGR** NU 02291 99192  
**Site Name** Chesterhope Burn  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate; disturbed by excavation  
**Dimensions** Length 14.6m Width Height c 1.8m

**Description**

A prominent mound of earth and stones (up to 0.5m across) situated close to the break of slope of a small natural terrace above the east bank of the Chesterhope Burn. The structure of the cairn has suffered considerable disturbance from antiquarian excavation. The main disturbance appears to be slightly offset from the centre in the south-east part of the cairn where a significant depression, measuring 0.65m x 0.25m, includes the remains of a probable cist edged by four stone slabs. The structure appears disturbed and may have been reconstructed following excavation. There are several irregular depressions on the north-west side of the cairn which probably reflect further excavation areas. Despite the substantial disturbance to the cairn, Dixon does not appear to refer to it.

**Site Number** 26  
**NGR** NZ 02292 99191  
**Site Name** Chesterhope Burn  
**Site type** Rock shelter  
**Period** Uncertain; Modern

**Condition** Moderate; recent forest clearance  
**Dimensions** Length c 3.45m Width 4.2m Height ? [4.5m x 3.8m]

**Description**

A very prominent rock outcrop overlooking the east bank of the Chesterhope Burn with a large overhang of hard sand stone above an eroded softer bed. The overhang shelters a relatively flat area measuring 4.2m x 3.45m which is partly defined on the west side by a low drystone wall. The wall survives to two courses and runs along a break of slope. A small setting of stones to the south-west was also observed. Both of these features appear to be relatively recent additions. However, given the prominence of the site, the wide views of the Coquet Valley, and its size and form, it is possible that it may have been used as a refuge in earlier periods.

**Site Number** 27  
**NGR** NZ 02320 99147  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Disturbed  
**Dimensions** Length 7.5m Width 6.8m Height ?

**Description**

A low lying grass-covered cairn located at the intersection of forest breaks on the lower slope of Spital Hill. The central area of the cairn has been excavated and the remains of a cist are exposed. The cist is orientated north-east to south-west and measures 0.55m x 1m formed by four vertically set slabs arranged to form an approximate rectangle. This has been extended by the addition of two further stones at the time of construction. A possible additional cist is marked by a large vertical stone, 0.75m across, on the east side. The stone may, however, represent the ex situ capstone from the exposed cist. The cairn appears to extend downslope to the north, though this may represent excavation spoil spread by forestry vehicles. An earthen bank (28) curves around the south-west side of the cairn, apparently respecting the earlier monument. Possibly Dixon's cairn 4 (1892, 26) based on his description of the location, though the description of the cist does not correspond to the survey results.

**Site Number** 28  
**NGR** NU 02560 00182  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cross-dyke  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate; cut by forest breaks/tracks  
**Dimensions** Length 126m Width 7.8m Height up to 0.5m

**Description**

A low earthen dyke with a symmetrical profile running downslope to the north-west from the south-west side of cairn (28), passing close to the west side of cairn (29). The slight expression of an associated ditch was observed on the west side. It is visible on a 1948 aerial photograph (541/A/479 3300) where the south-east end appears to curve to the south and is truncated by a quarry (30), whilst the north-west end appears to run to the north-west corner of the plantation. The dyke appears to correspond broadly to the curving western extent of the nineteenth century plantation which may suggest its function as a wood bank, preventing access to livestock, or merely the re-use of an earlier cross-dyke.

**Site Number** 29  
**NGR** NU 02545 00178  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate - disturbed  
**Dimensions** Length 4.6m Width 3.8m Height 0.4m

**Description**

A low lying cairn situated on the northern edge of a forest break, close to the east side of bank (28). It appears to have been excavated resulting in a 2.5m diameter depression (waterlogged) in the central area

enclosed by a bank of spoil A rectangular depression in the centre, measuring approximately 0.7m x 1m and aligned west-north-west/east-south-east, may be the remains of a cist. This site is also a contender for Dixon's cairn 4 (1892, 26) based on his description of the location. The account, however, gives only the dimensions of the cist which was not exposed at the time of survey.

**Site Number** 30  
**NGR** NU 02520 00190  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Quarry  
**Period** Modern?  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 68m Width up to 15m

**Description**

The remains of a quarry excavated into a north-facing outcrop of the Fell Sandstone which forms a prominent scarp on the north-west slope of Spital Hill. It survives as a vertical working face running broadly west-south-west/east-north-east with slightly domed spoil tips to the north, probably representing overburden and irregular hollows to the west. No processual evidence of working techniques could be observed, though the rock cleaves readily along natural plains and may have required relatively unsophisticated methods of extraction. There appears to be no record of quarrying within the survey area and it was not recorded on early editions of the OS maps. This may suggest that it belongs to the period of modern plantation.

**Site Number** 31  
**NGR** NU 02512 00051  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cross-dyke  
**Period** Post-Medieval?  
**Condition** Moderate; planted  
**Dimensions** Length c218m Width up to 7m Height 1.2m

**Description**

A prominent earthen cross-dyke which follows an east/west orientation on the lower north-west slope of Spital Hill. The east end of the bank is truncated by a quarry (30) whilst the west end terminates at the edge of the plantation, but its course perhaps follows a modern boundary in the open fields to the west. The central area includes an additional section of dyke (32) on the north side, the east end of which terminates at a substantial holloway which cuts the line of the dyke. It is possible that this point is a contemporary throughway. Its course is also cut by a further hollow way (33) at the west end. The dyke could not be traced east of the quarry though the ground becomes considerably steeper to the east.

**Site Number** 32  
**NGR** NU 02532 00068  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Dyke  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate; planted  
**Dimensions** Length 38.7m Width up to 4.8m Height 1.4m

**Description**

A prominent section of earthen dyke associated with, and running parallel to, the central section of (31), thus forming a double dyke. It terminates at a substantial hollow way to the east but merges into (31) to the west.

**Site Number** 33  
**NGR** NU 02436 00018  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Post-Medieval

**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 46m+ Width up to 2.8m  
**Description**

A prominent hollow way, with a gently sloping rounded profile, which runs broadly north/south cutting the course of earthen bank (31). Beyond the bank its course veers to the north-east and south-east, respectively, entering more dense plantation and could not be traced further.

**Site Number** 34  
**NGR** NZ 02081 98761  
**Site Name** Simonside Ridge  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**SMR** NZ 09NW18  
**Condition** Moderate, though disturbed, earthwork; plantation recently felled  
**Dimensions** Length 18.2m...Width 17.5m Height 1.2m  
**Description**

A prominent cairn of earth and stone situated on high level ground, which slopes gently to the north, between Simonside Hill and Ravensheugh. Despite considerable disturbance, from forestry and earlier excavation, it retains a domed appearance. There is a slight ditch on the north-east side and the remains of a possible encircling bank to the south and south-west. To the east and south the cairn sits atop a natural outcrop or erratic. A large recumbent stone, measuring 1m x 2m, lies to the east of the base of slope. The overall form of the cairn, however, is difficult to interpret and the extent of any modification caused by excavation or forestry cannot be determined. Several hollow ways lead up towards the cairn and it may have been used in later periods as a way marker. This cairn would appear to correspond with Dixon's cairn 8 (1892, 29) based on the stated distance and direction from Little Church. A central cist was discovered empty, but a 18" chamber found in the south west margin contained a portion of skull and a few bone fragments with possible traces of cremation on them.

**Site Number** 35  
**NGR** NZ 02190 98900  
**Site Name** Cambo Bridleway  
**Site type** Hollow Ways  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Good  
**Description**

A series of at least 29 distinct hollow ways that run along the western side of Spital Hill, crossing the col between the Simonside Hill and Ravenshaugh Crag, and continuing southwards. A branch of the hollow ways (44) has been traced on both sides of the Ousen Burn on the south side of the Simonside range. In the open moorland they are particularly prominent, forming 'dendritic' patterns with amalgamate at significant breaks of slope. They are generally steep sided with rounded bottoms. The hollow ways are likely to represent the 'sheepwalks' mentioned by Dixon (1903). The Cambo bridleway which is recorded on an enclosure map of 1806 (NRO (M) QRD7) and referred to in the accompanying Award, follows this course from Great Tossion and may have originated as a post-medieval drovers way.

**Site Number** 36  
**NGR** NZ 01620 98970  
**Site Name** Kate and Geordie  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate; obscured by plantation  
**SMR** NZ09NW8  
**Dimensions** Length 19m Width 16m Height 1.4m  
**Description**

A large prominent circular cairn situated on a large rock outcrop. The central area has been excavated with spoil forming a crescent-shaped bank on the north and east sides of the cairn. The central excavation hollow, which has a large conifer growing within it, measures 5m in diameter and is 1.25m deep. An additional smaller hollow was noted to the south-west but its nature and extent could not be determined

due to the density of the plantation. The cairn lies on the west side of the route followed by the hollow ways; it is recorded as a currick on the early editions of the OS maps, and may have been used as a waymarker in later periods. This is probably Dixon's cairn 9 which was excavated in 1891 by Dixon, Bertram and the Reverend Smith accompanied by four workmen, but no evidence of burial was found (Dixon 1892, 29-30).

**Site Number** 37  
**NGR** NZ 01320 99604  
**Site type** Stone structure (Well?)  
**Period** seventeenth/eighteenth century?  
**Condition** becoming unconsolidated  
**Dimensions** Length 25.9m Width 11.1m

**Description**

Large spread of stones on the south side of a drystone field wall which form the northern extent of the plantation at the north-west corner of the survey area. The spread, which includes part of an east/west drystone wall surviving up to three courses, appears to cross the line of a spring recorded on the early editions of the OS maps. The site is also marked as a 'well' and may, therefore, represent the ruined remains of a structure that was erected in order to regulate or channel the outflow from the spring. A slight ditch running northwards in the adjacent field may be the remains of this channel.

**Site Number** 38  
**NGR** NZ 03728 98523  
**Site Name** Simonside Ridge  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Good despite disturbance  
**Dimensions** Length 24.8m Width 22.8m Height >1-2m

**Description**

A large circular cairn situated close to the northern edge of the eastern most summit of the Simonside range. It has been modified by walkers who have constructed a modern marker cairn to the north of centre. A small oval enclosure, probably a hut, measuring 3.7m x 4m with an entrance in the eastern corner, has also been built into the north-west side of the cairn. The structure is of drystone construction and survives up to six courses. The base of the cairn, however, appears undisturbed. There is no evidence of excavation though this may have been obscured by subsequent disturbance.

**Site Number** 39  
**NGR** NZ 03331 98551  
**Site Name** Old Stell Crag  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length c160m Width 2.3m Depth 1.75m

**Description**

An isolated hollow way which follows a meandering course ascending the steep hillslope between cairn (38) and Old Stell Crag.

**Site Number** 40  
**NGR** NZ 0270 98532  
**Site Name** Simonside Ridge  
**Site type** Possible rock shelter  
**Period** Uncertain  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 2.5m Width 2.1m

**Description**

A natural cleft in the north face of the crag east-north-east of cairn (41). The configuration of the crag has produce a small recess with sides and roof formed by the natural rock. There are also the remains of a



single course of drystone wall aligned north-west/south-east. The site has probably been used as a temporary refuge at some time in the past.

**Site Number** 41  
**NGR** NZ 02708 98520  
**Site Name** Simonside Ridge  
**Site type** Cairn  
**SMR** NZ09NW15  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 21.1m Width 9m Height c1m

**Description**

A large, oval cairn situated 5m south from the northern edge of a prominent crag, which forms the central of the three peaks of the Simonside range. It is believed that the cairn has been struck by lightning (Brewis and Dixon 1915-16, 45) in the recent past and a smaller cairn, superimposed on the top and marking a noticeable change in slope'; this may represent rebuilding by walkers. The cairn is a prominent landscape marker, visible from the lower slopes of the survey area.

**Site Number** 42  
**NGR** NZ 02406 98714  
**Site Name** Simonside Ridge  
**Site type** Cairn  
**SMR** NZ09NW17  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Moderate/damaged  
**Dimensions** Length 19.4m Width 19m Height ?

**Description**

Large prominent cairn situated on a rocky spur on the western summit of Simonside Hill and set slightly back from the vertical north face of the crag. It has been modified by walkers who have constructed modern marker cairns on the north side. A small oval drystone enclosure, probably a shelter, measuring 4m x 5.5m with an entrance at the north end, has also been built into the south side of the cairn. However, the base which consist of an earthfast stone, appears undisturbed. There is no evidence of excavation though this may have been obscured by subsequent disturbance.

**Site Number** 43  
**NGR** NU 02857 00326  
**Site Name** Great Tosson  
**Site type** Pond  
**Period** Post-Medieval/Modern  
**Condition** Wooded  
**Dimensions** Length 16.5m Width 15m Height 1.7m

**Description**

A rectangular pond situated on the gently sloping ground at the bottom of Spital Hill, due south of Great Tosson. It consists of earthen banks to the north, east and west a possible outlet to the north-east. The southern side is defined by the natural hillslope. The pond, which retains standing water and may enclose a natural spring, is presumably linked to the water supply for Great Tosson though it is not necessarily still in use.

**Site Number** 44  
**NGR** NZ 02280 98090  
**Site Name** Ousen Burn  
**Site type** Hollow way  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 256m+ Width up to 3.3m

**Description**

A series of at least five prominent hollow ways running broadly parallel on the north side of the Ousen Burn. They generally have steep sides with a rounded base and are aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, and can be seen to continued for a considerable distance beyond the bounds of the survey area to the south. The hollow ways probably form a branch of site 29.

**Site Number** 45  
**NGR** NZ 02361 98091  
**Site Name** Ousen House  
**Site type** Rock shelter  
**Period** Post-Medieval/ Medieval ? / Prehistoric ?  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 5.9m Width 5.6m

**Description**

A large recess in a natural rock outcrop above the north side of the Ousen Burn, south of Simonside Hill; it is known as the Ousen House. It has a funnel shaped interior narrowing to the back of the shelter and is walled by natural rock outcrop on three sides, and is enclosed on the south side by a crescent-shaped drystone wall with an 'entrance' at the west end. There is a natural ledge in the north-west corner of the shelter which has been used as a hearth, above which there is a natural fissure leading up through the rock which has been used as chimney. Externally a narrow ledge at the base of the outcrop drops steeply to the south. Although it is likely to have been used as a shepherds/drovers shelter during the post-medieval period, it is possible that it was used as a shelter in earlier periods.

**Site Number** 46  
**NGR** NZ 01985 99549  
**Site Name** Chesterhope Burn  
**Site type** Stone structure  
**Period** Post-Medieval?  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 9.5m Width 4.8m Height 0.5m

**Description**

A stone structure situated immediately on the south side of a drystone field boundary close to the east side of the Chesterhope Burn. It consists of a well-built central rectangular platform, measuring 2.2m x 4.8m, set perpendicular to the field wall. Its top surface, which is level with the base of the coping on the field wall, is paved and may survive to its original height. Additional lower platforms of similar width, and with slight evidence of side walls on the southern edges, abut the south end to the east and the central part to the west. A single mature hawthorn growing in the middle of the central platform may be a relic of an earlier quickset hedge following the line of the existing field wall. This may indicate that the structure was used to cross over a pre-existing boundary, though the insertion of a gate would seem to be a less labour intensive means of crossing at this point.

**Site Number** 47  
**NGR** NZ 03571 99526  
**Site Name** Coe Burn  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** forested  
**Dimensions** Length 7.35m Width 6.16m Height 0.35m

**Description**

A low cairn situated south-west of the car park. The central area is sunken, probably the result of excavation. A crescent-shaped bank on the north side may be spoil.

**Site Number** 48  
**NGR** NZ 02341 99195  
**Site Name** Cambo Bridleway

**Site type** Carved stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Good

**Description**

A large sandstone outcrop situated on the course of the Cambo bridleway, butted to the east and west by natural sandstone outcrop/crags. The boulder appears to have a carved surface forming a 'cobbled' pattern, presumably in order to facilitate grip for packhorse and livestock. The eastern edge is considerably worn which may have been caused by cart wheels.

**Site Number** 49  
**NGR** NZ 02240 98977  
**Site Name** Cambo Bridleway  
**Site type** Carved stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Fine

**Description**

A small section of sandstone outcrop situated in the base of a holloway on the course of the Cambo bridleway. It consists of horizontally lines c 0.70m apart carved at right angles to the path, and presumably served the same function as site 48 to provide a grip for pack horses and livestock

**Site Number** 50  
**NGR** NZ 2645 98784  
**Site Name** Simonside Hill  
**Site type** Boundary stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval (1790)  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 2.6m Width 1m

**Description**

A carved boundary stone on the edge of the scarp of Simonside Hill, which marks the boundary between the Duke of Portland and Duke of Northumberland estates. It also marks the line of the parish boundary between Tosson (west) and Newtown (east). It consists of a flat surface, measuring 1m x 2.6m, the initials of the two estate owners, DN and DP, are separated by a central line and the date September 15th 1790. An additional inscription 'TR 1807' is a later carving and, although finely executed, may be graffiti.

**Site Number** 51  
**NGR** NZ 03796 99600  
**Site Name** Coe Burn  
**Site type** Earthwork  
**Period** Uncertain  
**Condition** Poor; denuded  
**Dimensions** Length 26.5m Width 18.9m Height up to 0.3m

**Description**

A low 'U'-shaped earthwork, formed by an earthen bank, aligned north-east-south-east situated on low boggy ground to the east of the car park. It consists on a low earthen bank which is prominent to the south-east but fades to the north-west.

**Site Number** 52  
**NGR** NZ 03914 99406  
**Site Name** Coe Burn  
**Site type** Earthworks  
**Period** Uncertain  
**Condition** Good

**Dimensions** Length up to 25m Width Depth up to 3.5m

**Description**

A cluster of at least nine irregular pits, ranging in size from 10m to 25m in diameter, situated south-east of the car park and extending eastwards in to dense plantation. The form is suggestive of quarry pits for building stone, possibly associated with the building of the Newtown Deerpark pale in the thirteenth century.

**Site Number** 53

**NGR** NZ 03843 99354

**Site Name** Coe Burn

**Site type** Bank

**Period** Post-Medieval

**Condition** Good

**Dimensions** Length 380m Width up to 3.6m Height 0.7m

**Description**

An earthen field boundary situated to the south and south-east of the car park. To the east it follows the line of the boundary between the Forest Enterprise and Duke of Northumberland land, where a post and wire fence has been erected along its course. It then turns sharply westwards and can be traced almost to Coe Burn. The bank has been breached by forestry vehicles in several locations.

**Site Number** 55

**NGR** NU 02456 00079

**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower

**Site type** Sheep stell?

**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval

**Condition** Moderate

**Dimensions** Length c 23m Width c23m Height 0.4m

**Description**

A sub-rectangular earthwork, with rounded corners, defined by a 2m wide earthen bank. The bank stands to an average height of 0.4m with a faint trace of an external ditch. The interior is obscured by conifers, though appeared to be devoid of features. The site is shown on aerial photograph 541/A/478 - 3300. It may relate to the "Aad Stells" referred to by Dixon (1892, 26).

**Site Number** 56

**NGR** NU 02480 00130

**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower

**Site type** Sheep stell?

**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval

**Condition** Moderate

**Dimensions** Diameter c21m Height 0.4m

**Description**

Circular earthwork situated to the north of site (55). The site comprises a low earthen bank 2m wide by 0.4m high, which encloses an area 17m in diameter. There is a faint trace of an external ditch. The interior is obscured by conifers, though appeared to be devoid of features. The site is shown on an aerial photograph 541/A/478 - 3300 supplied by the Forest Enterprise. It may relate to the "Aad Stells" referred to by Dixon (1892, 26).

**Site Number** 57

**NGR** NU 02539 00201

**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower

**Site type** Cairn

**Period** Bronze Age

**Condition** Moderate

**Dimensions** Diameter 3.5m Height c0.4m

**Description**

A circular spread of stones measuring 3.5m in diameter with loose stone pile in the centre. Larger stone are visible around the northern edge. The surrounding area is largely stone free. It is situated due north-north-west of cairn 27.

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**Site Number** 58  
**NGR** NU 02533 00195  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Diameter 3.5m Height c0.4m

**Description**

A circular spread of stones measuring 3.5m in diameter with a loose stone pile in the centre. The surrounding area is largely stone free. It is situated 5m west of cairn 57.

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**Site Number** 59  
**NGR** NU 02550 00211  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Diameter c4m Height 0.6m

**Description**

A circular spread of stones measuring approximately 4m in diameter. The surrounding area is largely stone free. It is situated 12m west-south-west of cairn 58.

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**Site Number** 60  
**NGR** NU 02503 00128  
**Site Name** Spital Hill - Lower  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Condition** Poor  
**Dimensions** Length 5m Width 3m Height 0.4m

**Description**

A low spread of stones on the edge of a fire break east of stall 56.

---

**Site Number** 61  
**NGR** NZ 02505 98277  
**Site Name** Croppy's Hole  
**Site type** Boundary stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval (1790)  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length 0.25m Width 0.19m Height 0.65m

**Description**

A squared sandstone boundary stone situated on the Tosson-Hollinghill parish boundary, on the west side of Croppy's Hole. It has DP (Duke of Portland) on the west, and DN (Duke of Northumberland) on the east. A chip in the stone has removed the right side of the letter N. It dates to 1790 when the boundary between the ducal estates was formalised.

---

**Site Number** 62  
**NGR** NZ 02986 99550  
**Site Name** Doe Cairn  
**Site type** Cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?

**Condition**      Uncertain

**Description**

The site of Doe Cairn named and located on the enclosure map of 1806 (NRO (M) QRD7). It was situated on the 1790 boundary between Hepple and Rothbury. The site of the cairn marks a bend in the boundary line. Despite extensive reconnaissance the physical remains could not be found within the dense woodland.

**Site Number**    63

**NGR**            NZ 02634 99577

**Site Name**     Little Church

**Site type**      Natural feature/ Shelter

**Description**

A large natural Fell Sandstone outcrop, known as Little Church Rock, situated on the north facing slope above Spital Hill. It is reputed to include a cave (Dixon, ) although this was seen to consist of little more than a shallow recess, which is 1m x 2.5m in size and is on the east side of the outcrop. Little Church is now obscured by plantation but from a distance may have resembled a church tower.

**Site Number**    64

**NGR**            NZ 01695 990608 - 1680 99064

**Site Name**     Kate and Geordie

**Site type**      Natural feature

**SMR**            NZ09NW10

**Description**

Two large prominent natural outcrop features known as Kate and Geordie. The origin of the name is unclear.

**Site Number**    65

**NGR**            NZ 01436 98788

**Site Name**     Mere Stone

**Site type**      Natural feature

**Description**

A very large glacial erratic, known as Main or Mere Stone, situated due west of the western summit of Simonside. It marks a change in the direction of the boundary between Tosson and Hepple parishes.

**Site Number**    66

**NGR**            NZ 01413 98940

**Site Name**     Mere Stone

**Site type**      Boundary stone

**Period**        Eighteenth century (1720's)

**Condition**     Good

**Description**

Boundary stone situated on the Tosson-Hepple parish boundary north of the Main Stone. R (Riddell) on the west and O (Lord Oxford) on the east [check]

**Site Number**    67

**NGR**            NZ 03961 99118

**Site Name**     White Park Well

**Site type**      Well (spring)

**Condition**     Uncertain

**Description**

The site of White Park Well situated close to the south-west corner of the Newtown deer park pale (72). The well has recently been capped and a new pipeway installed. Bricks and a rusty stop valves indicated the former arrangement. The well forms part of the water supply for Rothbury.

**Site Number** 68  
**NGR** NZ 02036 98356  
**Site Name** Ousen Burn  
**Site type** Cairn (currick)  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Poor

**Description**

A currick on the north side of the Ousen Burn. It consists of a small natural outcrop of hard rock with a weathered softer underside and a small number of stones on top. The stones probably represent the remains of a small cairn. The stones on the modern ground surface to the east may be part of the damaged cairn. The site is recorded on the early editions of the OS map.

**Site Number** 69  
**NGR** NZ 01305 99460 - 1531 99537  
**Site type** Boundary wall  
**Period** Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Poor  
**Dimensions** Width 0.8m      Height 0.4m

**Description**

Fragmentary remains of a drystone field wall situated to the north of structure (37). It continues the line of the modern field boundaries to the east and west.

**Site Number** 70  
**NGR** NU 03491 100011 - NZ 03770 99711  
**Site Name** Cowet Wells  
**Site type** Field system  
**Period** Post-Medieval?  
**Condition** Uncertain

**Description**

Part of a probable post-medieval field system to the north-north-west of the car park. It is visible on the Forest Enterprise aerial photograph (541/A/478 - 3300), and elements of it were observed on the ground where the boundaries were revealed as decayed boundary banks.

**Site Number** 71  
**Site Name** Bob Pyle's Studdie  
**NGR** NZ 02258 98720  
**Site type** Natural feature

**Description**

A large sandstone boulder on the west side of Simonside Hill known as Bob Pyle's Studdie. The stone is reputed to resemble the anvil or studdie of Bob Pyle, a nineteenth century blacksmith who lived in Rothbury (Dixon 1903, 482).

**Site Number** 72  
**NGR** NZ 04010 99400 - 04633 98701  
**Site type** Deerpark pale  
**Period** Medieval  
**Condition** Uncertain  
**Dimensions** Width 0.8 - 1.2m      Height 1.5m

**Description**

The well-preserved remains of the newtown Deer Park pale which survives in the eastern part of the survey area. The pale consists of an earthen bank which is retained by a well-built revetment wall. The wall, which survives in places up to 1.5m, which was possibly the original height. It is built of squared and dressed dry sandstone masonry. Only the pale forming the southern boundary of the deerpark can be seen, the course of the remaining section to the north of White Park Well has been obscured beneath a plantation. The modern Ordnance Survey continue to mark its course which was adopted as the boundary between Hollinghill and Tossou parishes.

**Site Number** 73  
**NGR** NZ 0245 9791  
**Site type** Round cairn  
**Period** Bronze Age?  
**Condition** Moderate; central area cut by a north/south trench  
**Dimensions** Length c15m Width c15m Height c1.5m

**Description**

A large prominent sub-circular cairn situated to the south of the western summit of Simonside, on relatively flat ground above the north side of the Ousen Burn. A trench, aligned north/south, has been excavated in the central area and a boundary stone (74) of 1790 inserted into the approximate centre of the mound. A smooth area of heather moorland, considerable in extent and possibly the result of heather burning, has exposed a low, narrow curving bank on the north side of the mound, which may be the remains of a stone filled palisade trench. The site is south of the present study area and has been located from documentary sources.

**Site Number** 74  
**NGR** NZ 0245 9791  
**Site type** Boundary stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval (1790)  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 0.25m Width 0.19m Height 0.65m

**Description**

A squared sandstone boundary stone situated on the Tosson-Hollinghill parish boundary, to the south of Croppy's Hole. DP (Duke of Portland) on the west, DN (Duke of Northumberland) on the east. It has been placed in the centre of an earlier large cairn (73), which may have been used as an earlier boundary marker. The stone dates to 1790 when the boundary between the ducal estates was formalised. The site is south of the present study area and has been located from the OS second edition OS map.

**Site Number** 75  
**NGR** NY 0248 9808  
**Site name** Croppy's Hole  
**Site type** Shielling  
**Period** Medieval/Post-Medieval  
**Condition** Moderate  
**Dimensions** Length c8m Width c3m Height up to 1m

**Description**

Remains of a drystone building, probably a small shieling, situated immediately on the north side of the Ousen Sike, south of Croppy's Hole. It is oriented north-west/south-east and consists of two cells measuring 6m x 3m and 2m x 3m. No evidence of a fire place, though the interior is obscured by wall tumble and vegetation. The site is to the south of the study area and was not located in the course of the present survey. It is located to a low level of precision and is not shown on the site mapping.

**Site Number** 76  
**NGR** NZ 02860 99267  
**Site type** Boundary stone  
**Period** Post-Medieval (1790)  
**Condition** Good  
**Dimensions** Length 0.25m Width 0.19m Height 0.65m

**Description**

A squared sandstone boundary stone situated on the Tosson-Hollinghill parish boundary, to the south-east of Little Church. DP (Duke of Portland) on the west, DN (Duke of Northumberland) on the east. The stone dates to 1790 when the boundary between the ducal estates was formalised.



## APPENDIX 5

### A SYNTHESIS OF DIXONS ACCOUNT OF THE 1889-91 EXCAVATIONS (1892)

**Note:** Text in italics is an interpretation of the correlation between Dixon and the present survey results

**DIXON CAIRN 1:** (Dixon 1892, 25) Second ridge between 800' and 900'. A result of an accidental discovery. It was 20' dia (6.1m) by 3' high of earth and stone overgrown with heather, and devoid of any particular method of arrangement. It incorporated several large stones. At or near the centre, in a cavity, a little below the natural surface of the ground, was a small cinerary urn. This was upright, protected by a circle of stones set on edge with a large slab cover. Considerable quantity of calcined stones and charcoal were found on the same level as the internment. The urn contained burnt bone. Only one burial was discovered.

*[This cairn was not identified. If this is 200 yards east of Dixon Cairn 2 and that cairn is Cairn 21, then this site will be well east of the surveyed cairns]*

**DIXON CAIRN 2:** (Dixon 1892, 25-6) 200 yds west of Dixon Cairn 1 on the north-west verge of the same ridge. It was a large cairn of irregular dimensions, composed of earth and stone. At 3' deep in the south-west corner was a large freestone slab (4'8" by 1'10"). A perfect well-shaped cist was found beneath, aligned east/west, of four clean level-sided stones. The cist had 3'4" stones on the south side and 3'2" on the north side; it was 1'10" wide at the west end and 2'1" at the east, by 20" deep. The cist was clear of sand and soil and on a bed of native peat earth lay a body on its left side, the head in the north-west corner. No artefacts were found but the cairn was not further disturbed so there were possibly more artefacts. It was a male adult between 25 and 40 and 5'2"-4". The skull round-headed.

*[This was probably Cairn 21 on the basis of the description of the cist]*

**DIXON CAIRN 3:** (Dixon 1892, 26) this was on the lower ridge between 700' and 800', 300 yds south-west of Dixon cairn 2. Beneath a small mound was an irregular cist of five unequal stones aligned north-north-east and south-west by west, and up to 3' 6" long by 20" wide and 18" deep. No remains were found in the cist but they were possibly mouldered away due to air entering from the defective design of the cist. No artefacts were noted.

*[If Dixon Cairn 2 is cairn 21 then this is either cairn 5 or 6]*

**DIXON CAIRN 4:** (Dixon 1892, 26) 100 yds north-east of the circular enclosures known as Aad Stells, it has a slight mound, and the smallest cist is 15" sq. The cist only contained a small fragment of bone. The mound only had 1 burial.

*[This is either Cairn 27 or 29 though the description of the cist does not correspond with the survey evidence]*

**DIXON CAIRN 5:** (Dixon 1892, 27) on the north-east border of the upper ridge between 900 and 1000'. Fragments of two food vessels were found accompanying a deposit of charcoal and bone. No cist or cinerary urns were found.

*[Uncertain correlation]*

**DIXON CAIRN 6:** (Dixon 1892, 27) 100 yds west of Dixon cairn 5 on the same ridge, and 200 yds east of Willies Cairn. Beneath a mound of earth and stone, a cist of unusual shape was discovered empty. It had seven thin slabs of 2.5" thick, giving a perfect level top for a lid. The cist is north-west/south-east and 4' 4" long by 20.5" wide. The covering slab is 3'9" by 2'8", and 3" thick.

*[there is not 300 yards (274m) east/west between the surveyed cairns]*

**DIXON CAIRN 7:** (Dixon 1892, 27-29) 120 yds south of Willies Cairn, between 900' and 1000', was a larger cairn than any preceding cairn. Stone and some earth 26' dia, 6' high. 3 burials, viz, two cists and a cinerary urn, plus two smaller urns. The central cist was east/west and 3' long by 2' deep beneath the natural ground surface. It was rudely lined and there were three covering slabs, but no burial remains. Five foot to the south-south-west was a second cist aligned south-west/north-east which was 3'3" by 20" and 19" deep. It had two covering slabs. There was a large deposit of calcined bone and ash, representing several individuals. Many of the stones were fire reddened suggesting cremation at the site.

Four foot east of the central cist was an inverted cinerary urn placed on a flat stone. It contained burnt bone, ash, peaty soil and local sandstones. Eighteen foot south of this was a smaller urn and 3' south-east of the central cist was a further small urn. Both contained a Food Vessel which were stood upright. Only one has been preserved and when emptied at Craggside it contained, burnt bone, pieces of sandstone and peat soil, several sherds of pottery and a possible flint knife.

*[This is probably Cairn 1 which would make Willie's Cairn the present survey Cairn 15]*

**DIXON CAIRN 8:** (Dixon 1892, 29) At the bottom of a slope, 15 yards on the right hand side on an old hill road leading out of Coquetdale by way of Chesterhope and the neck of Simonside, thence over the fell into Redewater, between 900 and 1000' contour lines, two thirds of a mile south-west of Little Church. It was a stone cairn of good dimensions. There was a huge block of freestone on the north side. A cist in the centre was 3' long, 19" wide and 18" deep, and aligned south-west/north-west. The cist was empty but in a 18" square chamber found 12' to the south-west, almost on the margin of the cairn, was a portion of skull and a few bone fragments found with traces of cremation on them.

*[this is probably cairn 34]*

**DIXON CAIRN 9:** (Dixon 1892, 29-30) on the summit of a ridge on Ravensheugh at 1300' stands a huge cairn of stone 53' by 40'. It is near the edge of the hill, 269 yards north-east from the Main Stone and 1 mile north-east of the Jabel Trews. It forms a huge hump. In 1891 Dixon accompanied by Wm Bertram and the Rev B Smith, with 4 workmen excavated the cairn. After three hours of digging the cairn proved fruitless.

*[This is possibly cairn 36]*

**DIXON CAIRN 10:** (Dixon 1892, 30-1) A probable inhumation. This is a very large cairn on the northern slopes of Ravensheugh, just below Kate and Geordie, in a recess in the hillside at 1,000 feet, situated on a knoll, having a steep declivity to the north and east, with the hill rising to the south and east (SMR NZ 01699915 but not located by OS fieldworkers in 57, 71 and 76 due to afforestation). It is situated on a shallow rocky defile under the lofty crags of Ravensheugh, the peaceful valley of Chesterhope stretching along the foot of the hill. It measured 27' east/west by 30' north/south. Four men dug it for a day and a half, when at a depth of 10' from the apex a cist (aligned north-west/south-east in the south-eastern quadrant of the cairn) of four stone and a colossal capstone were found. The capstone was so heavy that it had thrust the side stones outward. Dixon and Hedley excavated the cist but found nothing but sand. However, one fragment of a cup marked rock was included in the foundation stones of the cist.

*[This was not located during the survey]*

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Fig 1 Simonside Location Map
- Fig 2 Simonside – Greenwood (1826) Sheet 4
- Fig 3 Ordnance Survey 6" 1 mile 3rd edn (1926)
- Fig 4 Survey exclusion map
- Fig 5 General Survey Map
- Fig 6 Key to detail maps
- Fig 7 Spital Hill Detail Map
- Fig 8 Coe Burn Detail Map
- Fig 9 Kate and Geordy Detail Map
- Fig 10 Old Stell Crag Detail Map
- Fig 11 Dove Crag Detail Map

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## PLATES

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- Plate 1 Simonside and Old Stell Crag from cairn 38 on Dove Crag > West  
Plate 2 Simonside from Old Stell Crag > north-west  
Plate 3 Cairn 38 (Dove Crag) from the east  
Plate 4 Cist from excavated cairn 21, Spital Hill - Middle  
Plate 5 Cist of Cairn 1 - Spital Hill - Middle  
Plate 6 Chesterhope Burn Shelter - Site 26 > south-east  
Plate 7 Little Church Shelter (Site 63) > south-west  
Plate 8 Carved Rock Surface - Cambo Bridleway (Site 48)  
Plate 9 DTM model of Simonside Range looking south-west from the  
picnic area  
Plate 10 model of Simonside Hill and Old Stell Crag viewed from the north-  
east  
Plate 11 DTM model of Simonside Hill looking south from Little Church to Old  
Stell Crag and Simonside  
Plate 12 DTM model of Simonside range looking north-west from Forest  
Burn



AVA 7843



Fig 1 : Location of Study Area



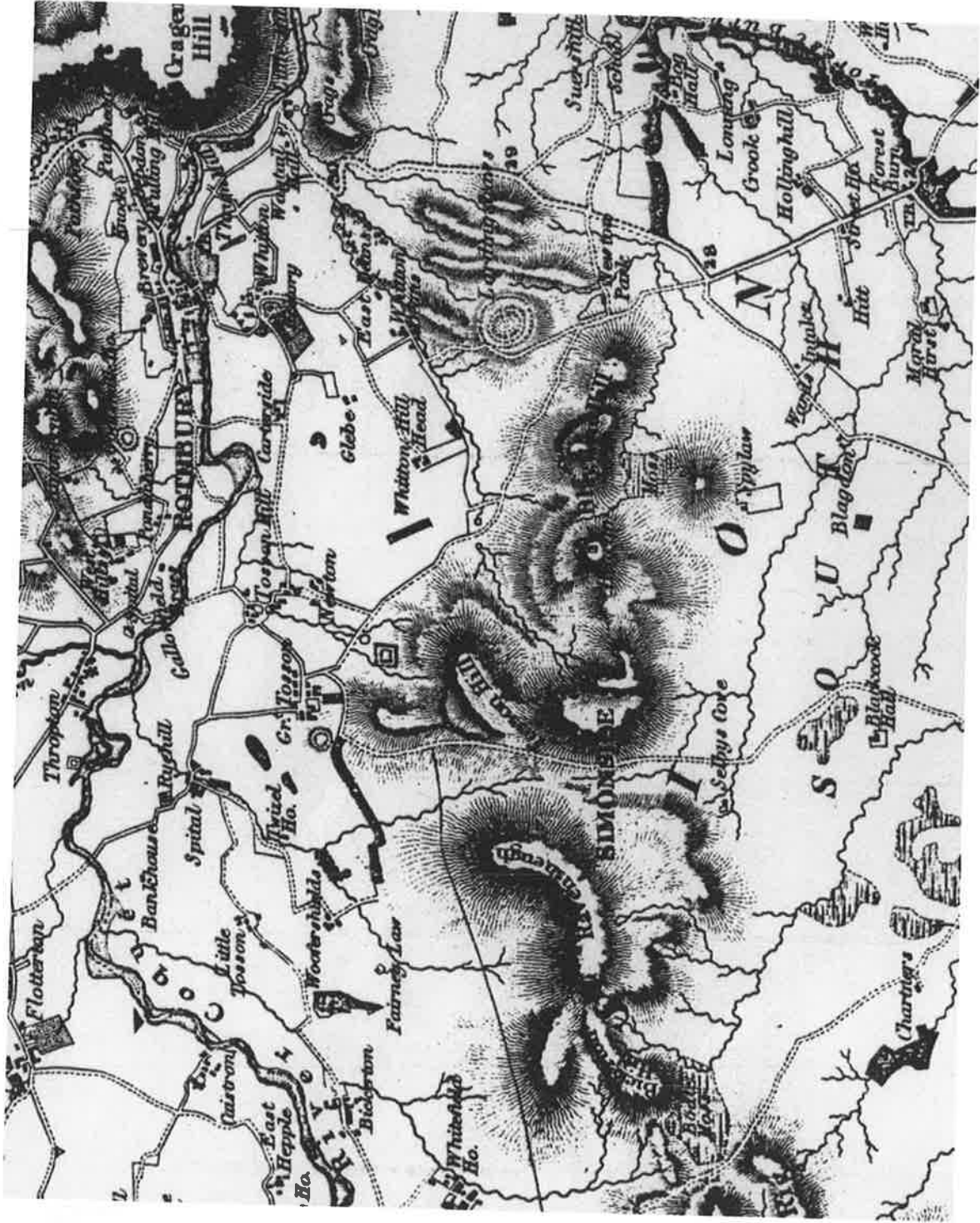


Fig 2 Simonside – Greenwood (1826) Sheet 4

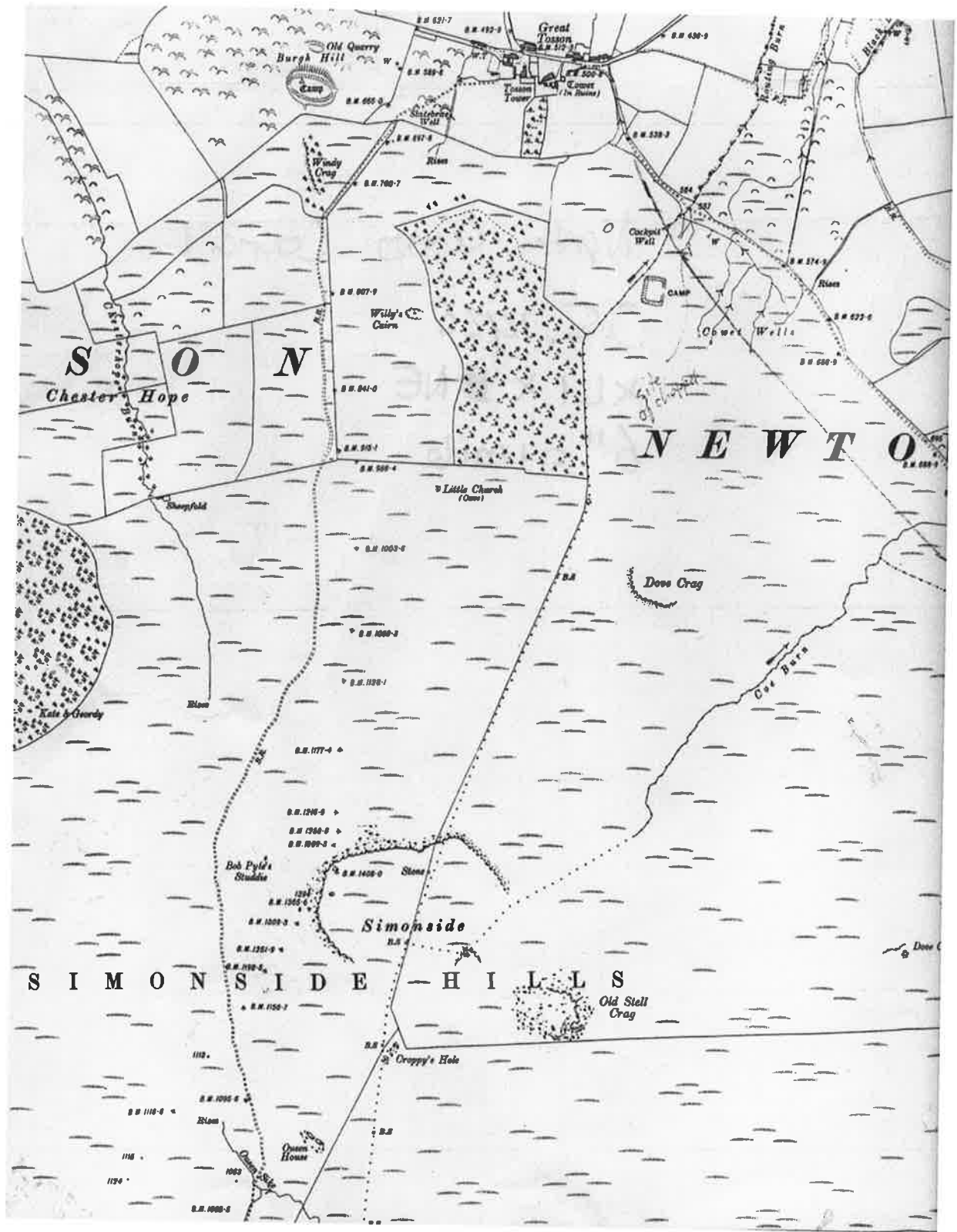


Fig 3 Ordnance Survey 6" 1 mile 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (1926)

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PROJECT:

SIMONSIDE HILLS

DRAWING

Survey Exclusion Map

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SCALE 1:12,500 at A3

DRAWN BY: AS and JQ

DATE: January 1998

KEY

Area unsurveyed  
due to dense tree cover

Track or firebreak

Study Area Boundary

TITLE:

Survey Exclusion Map

COMMISSIONED BY:

Northumberland National Park  
Authority



Fig 4 Survey Exclusion Map





PROJECT:

**SIMONSHILL**

DRAWING

**General Survey Plan**

7843simon/simngen.few



SCALE 1:12,500 at A3

DRAWN BY: AS and JQ

DATE: January 1998

KEY

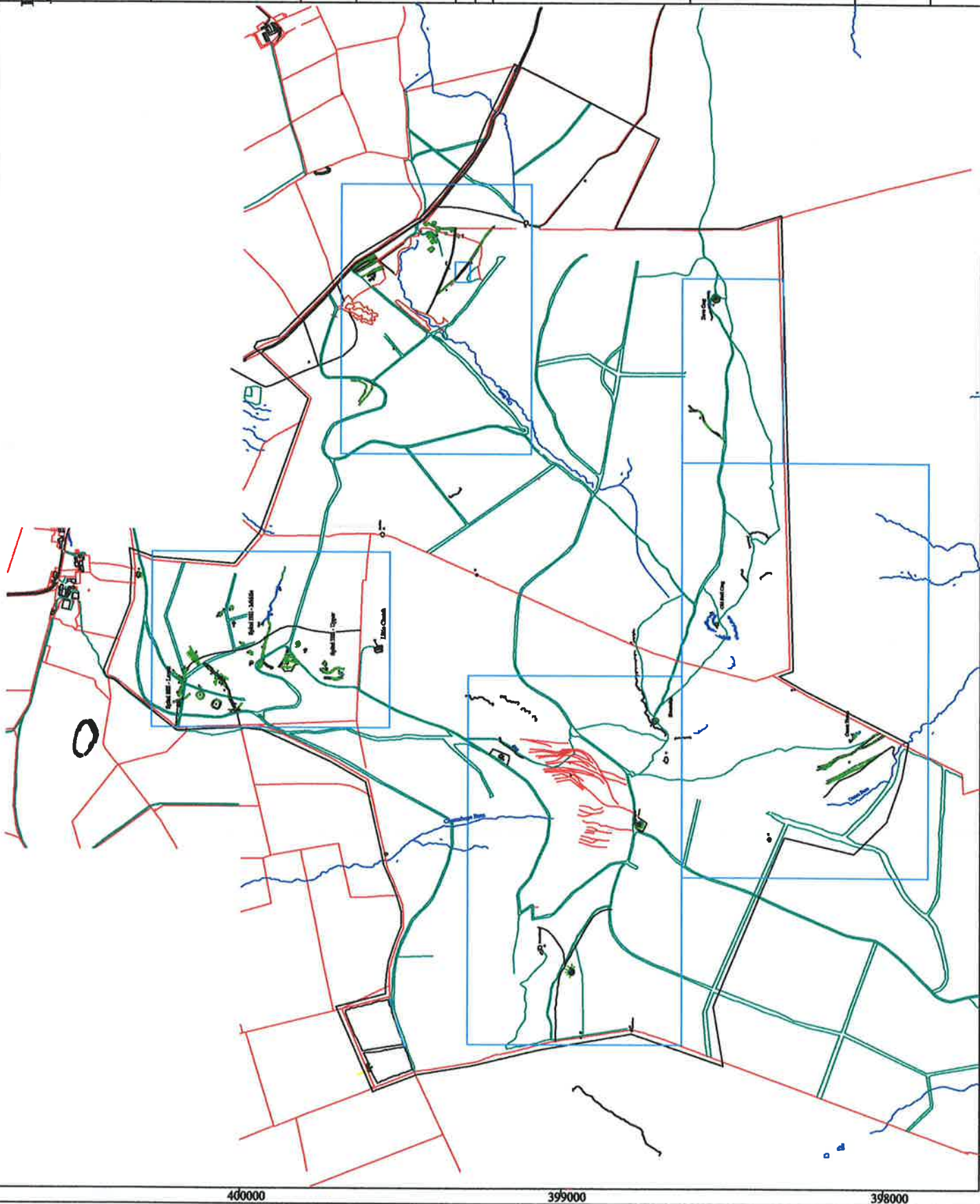
- 21 Cairn
- Crag / outcrop
- Track or firebreak
- Study Area Boundary

TITLE:

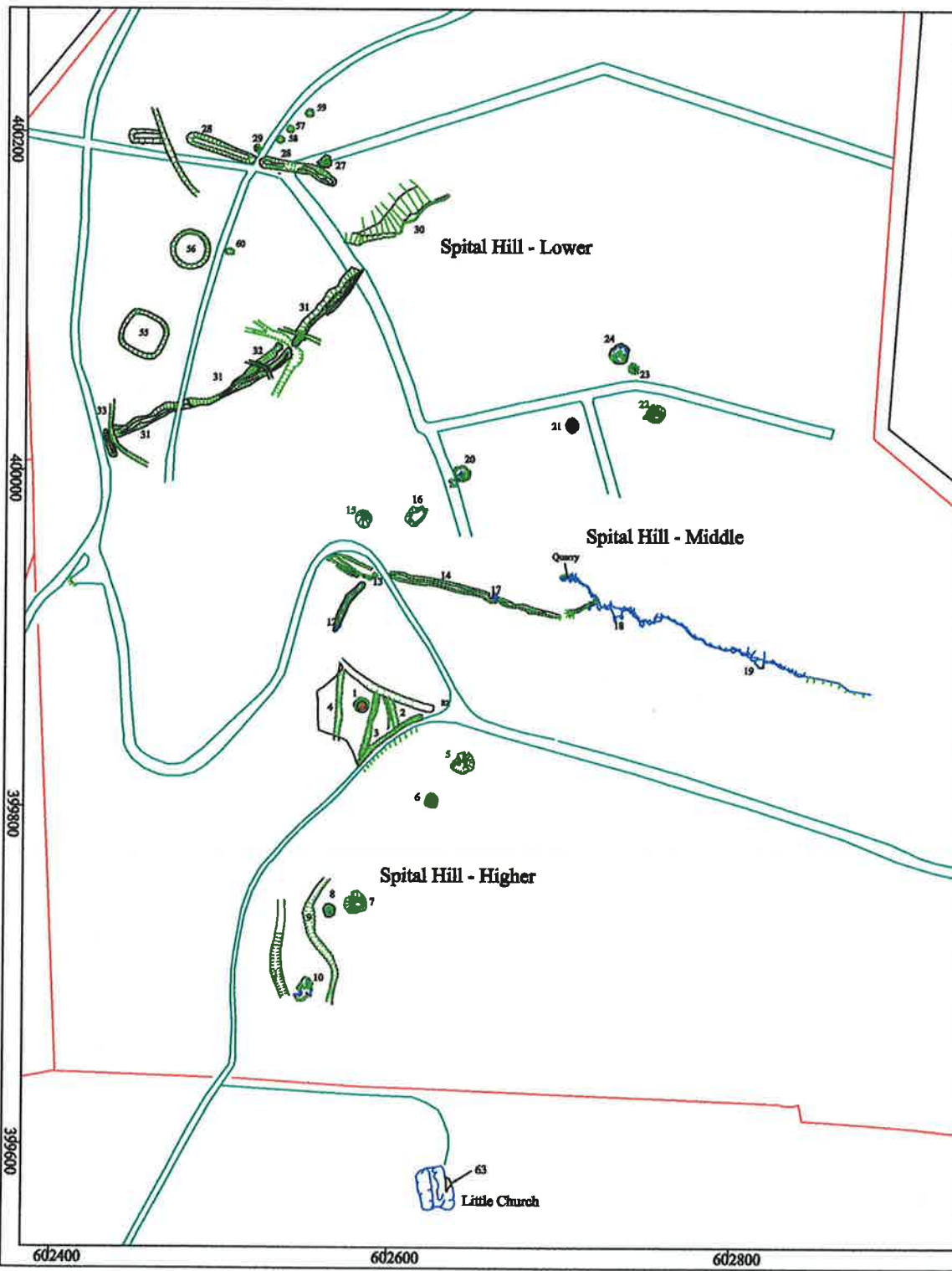
**General Survey Plan**

COMMISSIONED BY:

Northumberland National Park  
Authority



**Fig 5 General Survey Map**

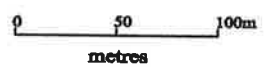


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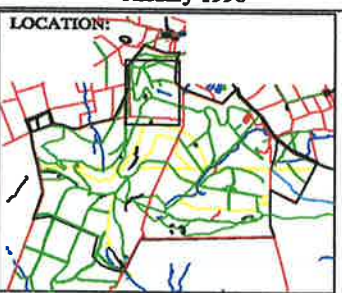
**PROJECT:**  
**SIMONSHILL HILLS**

**DRAWING**  
**Little Church Detail Plan**  
7843simo/simdet1.fww



**SCALE 1:2000 at A3**

**DRAWN BY:** AS and JQ  
**DATE:** January 1998



- KEY**
- 21 ● Cairn
  - Crag / outcrop
  - /// Track or firebreak
  - Study Area Boundary

**TITLE:**  
**Little Church Detail Map**

**COMMISSIONED BY:**  
**Northumberland National Park  
Authority**

**Fig 7 Spital Hill Detail Map**



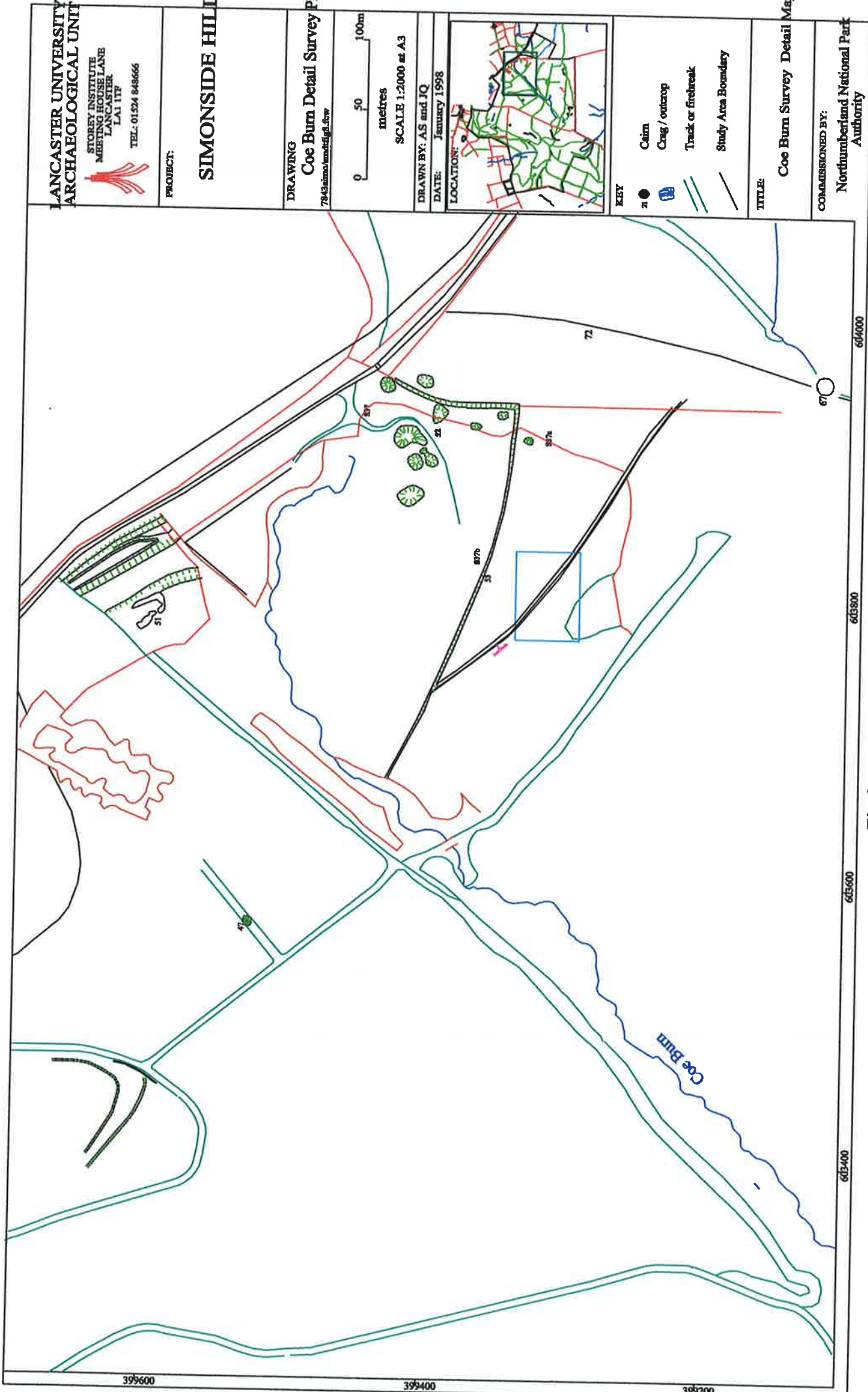


Fig 8 Coe Burn Detail Map

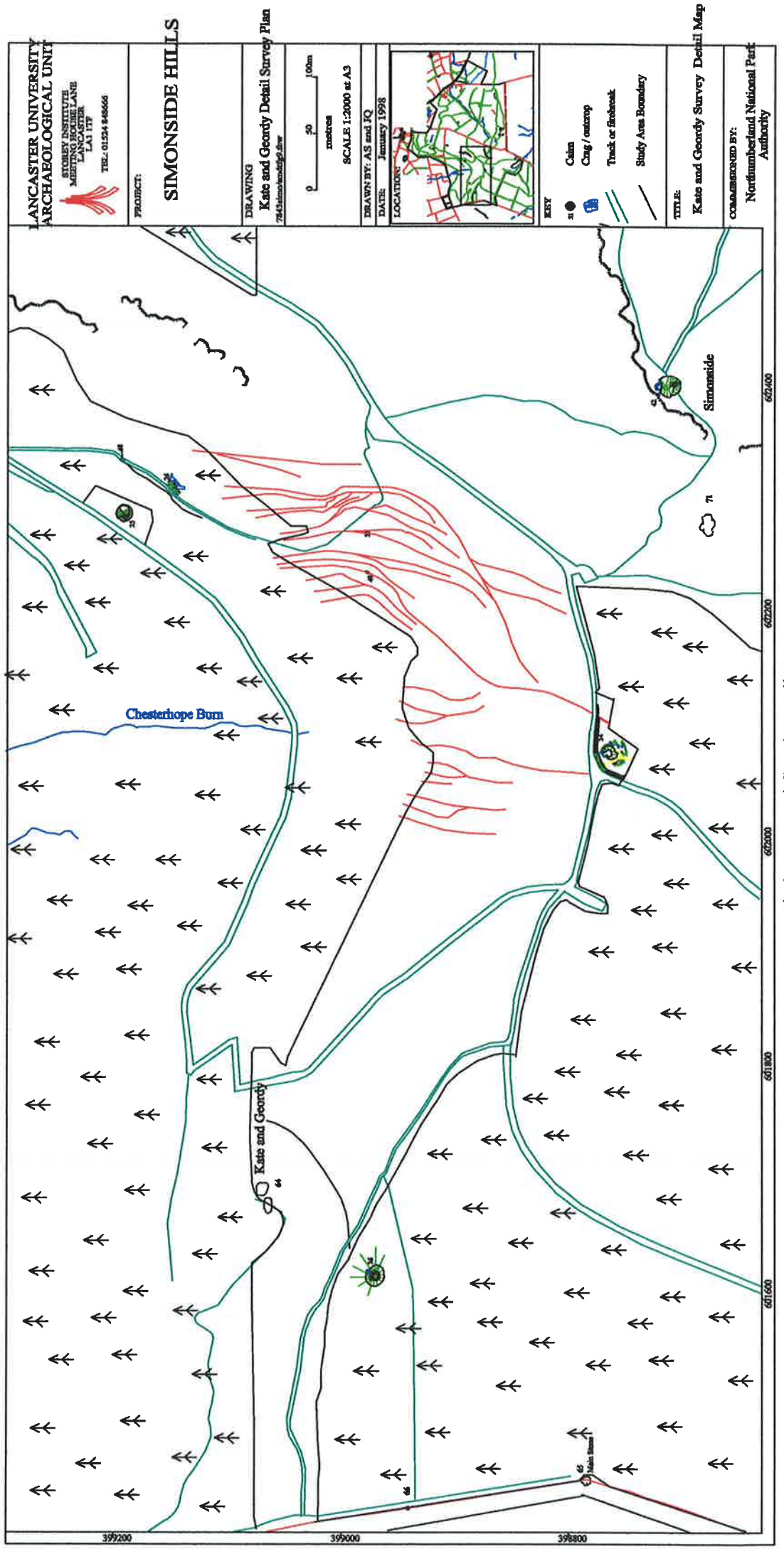


Fig 9 Kate and Geordy Detail Map

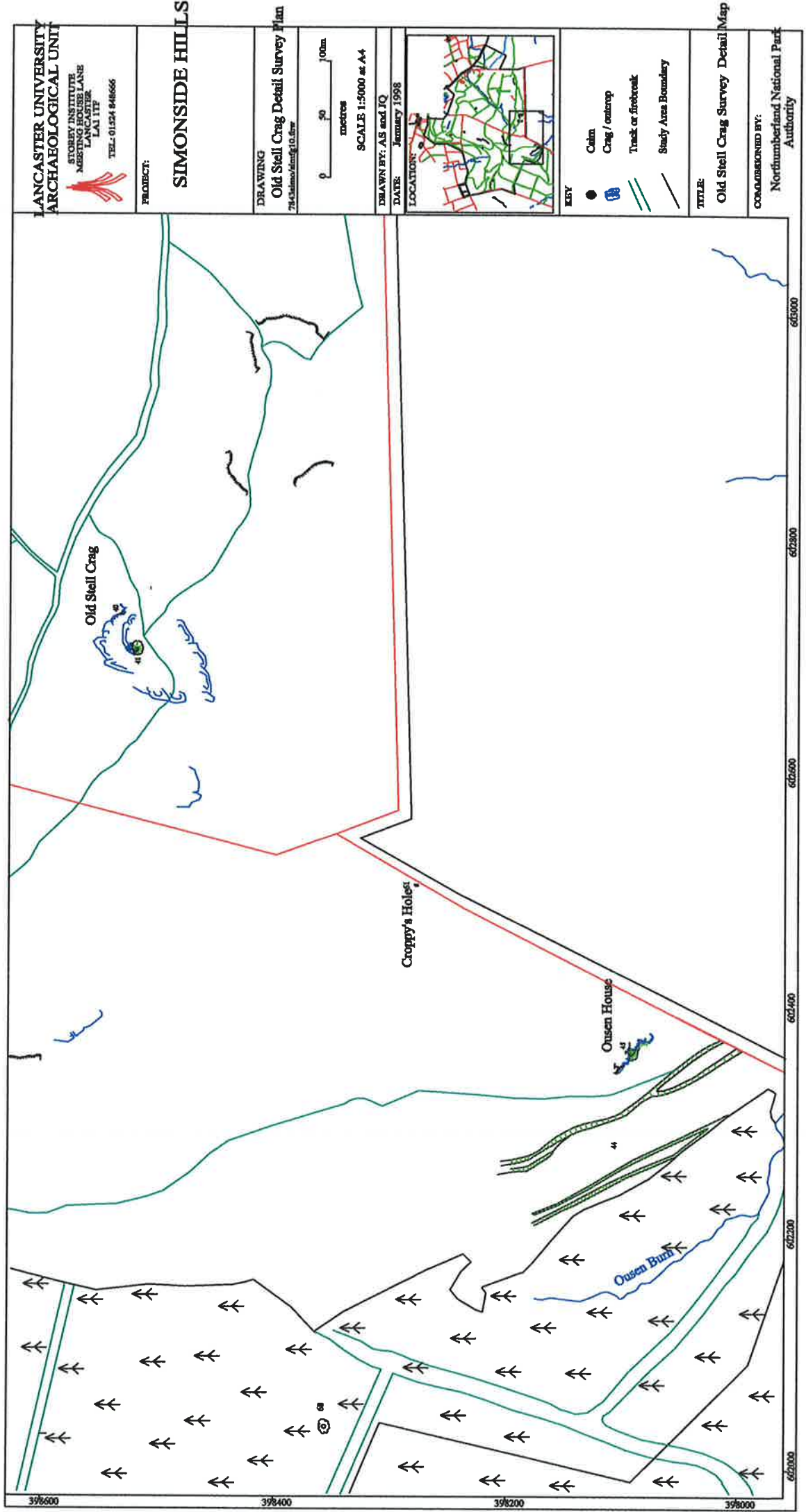


Fig 10 Old Stell Crag Detail Map





Plate 1 Simonside and Old Stell Crag from cairn 38 on Dove Crag > West



Plate 2 Simonside from Old Stell Crag > north-west

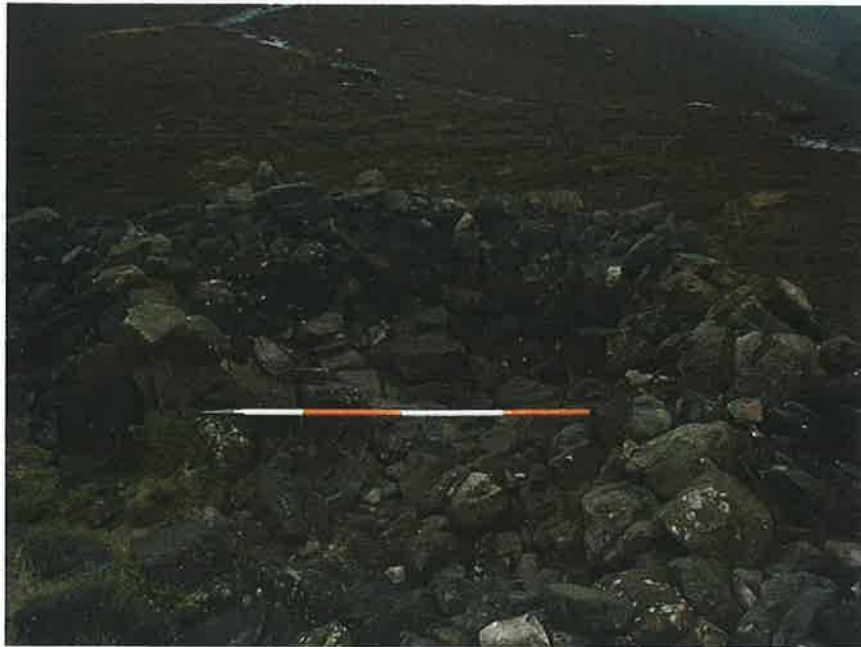


Plate 3 Cairn 38 (Dove Crag) from the east



Plate 4 Cist from excavated cairn 21, Spital Hill – Middle





Plate 5 Cist of Cairn 1 – Spital Hill – Middle



Plate 6 Chesterhope Burn Shelter – Site 26 > south-east





Plate 7 Little Church Shelter (Site 63) > south-west



Plate 8 Carved Rock Surface – Cambo Bridleway (Site 48)