



FIELD SURVEY AT KIRKAND

Last year members of Appleby Archaeology Group spent several enjoyable afternoons exploring fields at the bottom of the fell east of Kirkland (NY657333). Field survey was undertaken by walking systematically across the land and noting features encountered. Forms were used to record the location and dimensions of these which were then plotted out to produce an outline plan.

Initial visits indicated the presence of an extensive area of archaeological remains comprising low stone banks, platforms and stone cairns both east and west of the fell track (shown opposite). Also identified were a rectangular feature and two circular pits which were located close to Kirkland Beck. These have since been identified as potash pits, used to burn bracken for the production of potassium carbonate (used in the manufacture of soap).

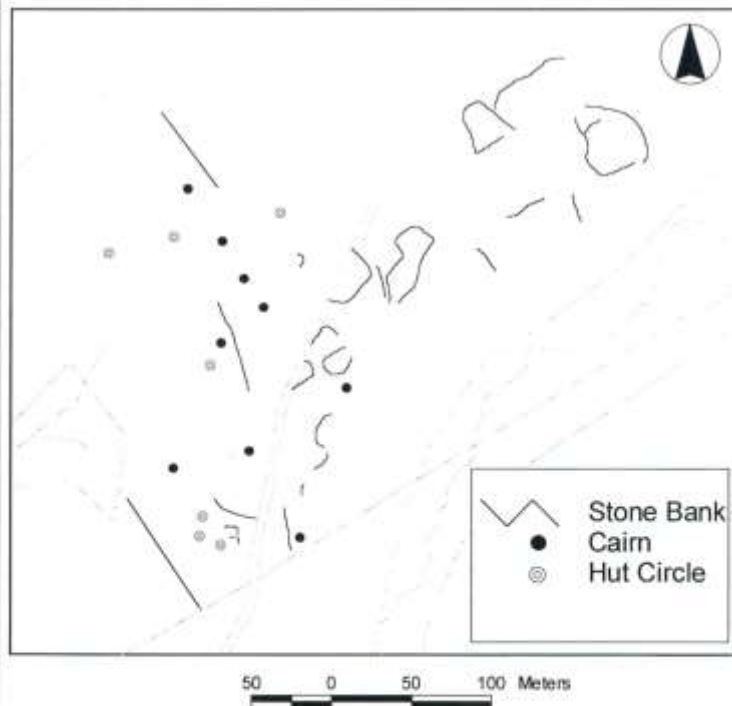
Some of the banks survive as short lengths while others form small enclosures or define level platforms. The banks are associated with areas which are relatively clear of stone compared to the surrounding land which is boulder-strewn. The cairns may also be the result of field clearance but could equally be burial cairns. In addition a number of

circular and sub-rectangular features were recorded, including several possible hut circles. One or two enclosures also appeared to have internal features which have not yet been recorded.

Due to the complexity of the site further detailed survey and recording is planned to determine the nature of the archaeological remains. It has the appearance of a settlement. If so is it prehistoric? Do all the features belong to one phase? Does it extend beyond the area surveyed?

In order to answer these questions we need your help. The next step is to record the features we have identified in sufficient detail so as to make an interpretation of the site possible. It is not entered in the Cumbrian Sites and Monuments record and to do so we need a better understanding of what we have found.

If you would like to join in please get in touch or come along on the 3rd April for our introductory day (see Events).



Contact Details

If you would like to take part please send your details to:
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