

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Ring cairn at Cogden Gill, 200m south of Grinton Lodge

PARISH: GRINTON

DISTRICT: RICHMONDSHIRE

COUNTY: NORTH YORKSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 24559

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SE04839740

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

This ring cairn is situated on a slight north east facing slope above Cogden Gill ravine and overlooking the lower reaches of Swaledale. It includes a substantial stone bank 2.5m wide and 0.3m high, although somewhat obscured by thick heather and bracken. Some robbing has taken place of large stones on the eastern side of the monument. The ring cairn has an overall diameter of 15.5m.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

A ring cairn is a prehistoric ritual monument comprising a circular bank of stones up to 20m in diameter surrounding a hollow central area. The bank may be kerbed on the inside, and sometimes on the outside as well, with small uprights or laid boulders. Ring cairns are found mainly in upland areas of England and are mostly discovered and authenticated by fieldwork and ground level survey, although a few are large enough to be visible on aerial photographs. They often occur in pairs or small groups of up to four examples. Occasionally they lie within round barrow cemeteries. Ring cairns are interpreted as ritual monuments of Early and Middle Bronze Age date. The exact nature of the rituals concerned is not fully understood, but excavation has revealed pits, some containing burials and others containing charcoal and pottery, taken to indicate feasting activities associated with the burial rituals. Many areas of upland have not yet been surveyed in detail and the number of ring cairns in England is not accurately known. However, available evidence indicates a population of between 250 and 500 examples. As a relatively rare class of monument exhibiting considerable variation in form, all positively identified examples retaining significant archaeological deposits are considered worthy of preservation.

The monument although partially disturbed is still a well preserved example containing further archaeological remains.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 30th June 1995