Works at Harehope 2016

Harehope – Adopt-a-Monument

Adopt-a-Monument is a nation-wide Community Archaeology scheme that provides volunteer groups with the practical advice and training they need to care and conserve their local heritage. The project encourages groups to get involved in hands-on activities to improve the condition, accessibility and interpretation of their chosen site. Between 2011 and 2016, we will work with 55 community groups to equip volunteers with new skills in archaeological fieldwork and conservation, which can be used again and again to promote the heritage of their local area. More information on Adopt-a-Monument can be found on our website http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/?q=node/43 .

Harehope Cairn was excavated 1970's and is situated near to the Moffat coach road. Presently the cairn lies in commercial forestry. The Peebleshire Archaeological Society would like to clear the monument and interpret the remains for walkers and visitors using the old coach road. In 2013 the Peebleshire Archaeological society removed inrusive vegetation and brashed the surrounding trees. Subsequently the Society has returned to the site to maintain vegetation levels on two occasions.

This document sets out the scope of works to be covered in the attached SMC application form.

Interpretation Panel

Background

The society would like to erect an interpretation panel to inform visitors and passing walkers about the site and to complement other boards in the area.

Careful consideration over the positioning of the panel would be required. Historic Environment Scotland advised the society that 'if the panel is to be located within the scheduled area then minimal ground disturbance would be the guiding principle and timber posts rather than a stone cairn might be preferable. If outside the scheduled area consent is not required though we would still like to be included in discussions regarding the setting of the monument'.

Following discussions with the interpretation board's appointed designer and a consideration of existing interpretation boards the society settled on the upright lecturn style for the board. This would provide the best possible positioning of the board for visitors and the design. The society would prefer the interpretation panel to be installed to the SE of the cairn (within the

scheduled area- see snipped extract from cairn legal document) but the society will consult with Historic Environment Scotland on its location.

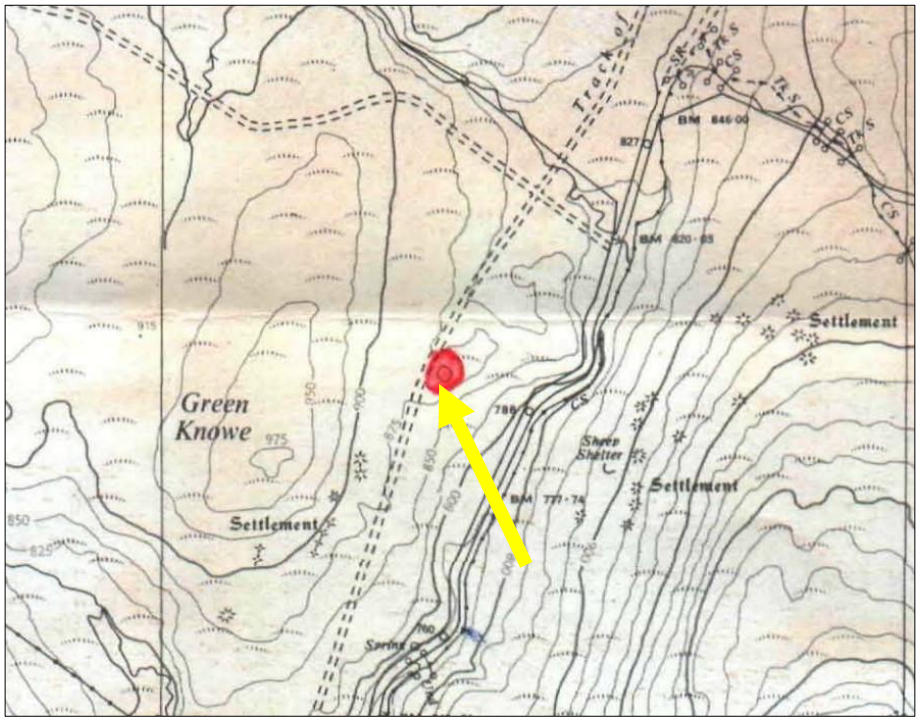
This location would allow for a better view of the monument which in turn would contribute to a better understanding of the site as there is a slight rise between the path and the monument which would make the cairn difficult for visitors to make out the structure should the panel be placed to the west of the path.



Above: The interpretation panel installed at Carn Glas (SM3213), similar to that proposed for Harehope Cairn.

Below: Snipped Extract from Map to show intended position of Interpretive Lectern at Harehope cairn

The map is part of the Harehope Cairn Legal Document, Index Number SM2912



Methodology

A metal stand similar to that installed at Carn Glas Chambered Cairn (see image above) would be installed in the south-west corner of the scheduled area but outside of the edge of the cairn. The board will be located between the path and the cairn at the very limit of the scheduled area. The signboard will be ***A1*** in size (594x841mm), on a two legged metal stand (see the attached Harehope Lectern document). Therefore two sockets for the metal stand will need to be excavated at the very edge of the scheduled area (see below). This is because the wall and fence are at the edge of the scheduled area. Given the 100% excavated nature of the site and that the posts will be outside of the extant cairn material it is envisaged that no in-situ cairn material would be impacted. The manufacturer of the board recommends that the holes that there would need to be 100mm round each post – thus giving us two holes approximately 300 x 500 x 600mm deep. The holes would then be refilled with concrete or other filler. These sockets will be excavated by a professional archaeologist and recorded to professional standards.

Monument Upkeep

The Society continues to work with Fountains Forestry to maintain vegetation management of the site. Monitoring visits will take place every six months for at least the period of the Adopt-a-Monument Scheme (2016) with the aim to continue further. If necessary, future work parties (with all necessary permissions in place) will be organised in order to maintain the monument.

The Society is also working with Fountains Forestry during the period of tree felling to assist in the long-term conservation of the monument.