Ring Cairn in Haws House Pasture, Chapel le Dale

Arthur Batty
Front Cover showing topological survey of the cairn, overlaid with aerial photograph.
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Haws House Pasture is situated at the eastern end of Chapel le Dale in an area called Sleights (Fig 1). The aerial photograph (Plate 1) shows a Ring Cairn approximately 18m EW x 16m NS, situated on a grass-covered, limestone terrace. There are several other features situated nearby as shown on the survey in Fig 2. These are cairn remains and banked features, that could be contemporary with the Ring Cairn but no evidence to prove this has yet come to light. There are the remains of a large cairn to the East adjacent to the B6255 at SD 7567 7836 (Plate 2) this has either been robbed or excavated, I think it has been excavated as there are linear piles of dumped stone clearly visible. A gradiometer survey of the Ring Cairn shows several high readings represented by brown and yellow areas (Fig 3) within the outer bank - two of these are small raised areas and shown in the hachured drawing in Fig 4. A core was taken from one of these, and a layer of burning containing small fragments of burnt bone and charcoal was recovered. There was only one layer of deposit on the core which went down 45 cm before hitting bedrock. A sample of the charcoal was sent for radiocarbon dating and gave a date of 1940BC-1730BC i.e. early Bronze Age (Fig 5) This is the largest Ring Cairn in Chapel le Dale and very similar to one found above Clapham which we will be reporting on in due course.
Fig 1: Location Map
Plate 1: Aerial photograph of Ring Cairn in Haws House Pasture.

Photograph: Arthur Batty
Fig 2: Survey of Ring Cairn, associated stone-based linear features and remains of another 11 cairns not ring type
Plate 2: Aerial photograph showing remains of Neolithic (?) Cairn. Grid Ref: SD 7567 7836

Photograph: Arthur Batty

Fig 3: Gradiometer survey of Ring Cairn overlaid onto topological survey
Fig 4: Hachured drawing of Ring Cairn in Haws House Pasture

Calibration Plot

SUERC-25808: 3505±40BP
- 68.2% probability
- 1890BC (68.2%) 1760BC
- 95.4% probability
- 1940BC (95.4%) 1730BC

Fig 5: Radiocarbon dating results