

"UPPER CAIRN", NORTH MUIR. This cairn stands in the pass between Medwin Water and West Water, on the S. E. slopes of North Muir.

It is a large pile of medium-sized stones, largely covered with turf and approximately circular on plan, but considerably quarried round the bottom and partly overrun on the S. S. W. by the remains of a turf-and-stone dyke which helps to obscure its exact outline.

Subject to errors due to these facts, the diameter may be put at about 80 ft. while the height above the ground on the W. N. W. is 12 ft. The summit, which shows only minor traces of disturbance, is flattened; the flattened area measuring 18 ft. from N. N. W. to S. S. E. by 9 ft. transversely. There is a quarry of considerable size in the hillside immediately above the cairn; a similar combination of cairn and quarry was noted some five miles away on the Westwater Burn, in Carnwath Parish, Lanarkshire. (Photo.)


iv. S. E.

June 24th 1943.

U.S. 19/9/60.

PEEBLES SHIRE.

WEST LINTON PARISH.

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, NORTH MUIR.  Close to the "Upper Cairn", and on the brink of the quarry-hole mentioned in the description of that monument, there are four grass-covered piles of stones, oblong in shape and lying parallel to one another and with their crests separated by intervals of 14 ft., 20 ft. and 19 ft. The largest is 30 ft. long and 3 ft. 6 in. high. They suggest piles of stone won from the quarry for some purpose but never utilized. (Photo.)


iv. S. E. (unnoted)

June 24th 1943.

Al. 19/9/60.

PERELESSHIRE.

WEST LINTON PARISH.

SMALL CAIRNS, NORTH MUIR.  The higher-lying and drier ground to N. W. and W. of the "Upper Cairn" is plentifully dotted with small cairns, measuring about 15 ft. in average diameter. There may be up to fifty in an area of ten acres, and the nearest is about 250 yds. distant from the "Upper Cairn." They seem to be made of rather larger stones than the "Upper Cairn", some of the largest measured being up to 2 ft. by 1 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. No hut-circles or field-divisions could be seen, but this may have been due to the density of the heather and grass; it has been noted elsewhere that in this district these features hardly appear except on recently burnt ground.

iv. S. E. (unnoted).

June 24th 1943.

A.S. 19/9/60.

PEEBLESSHIRE.

WEST LINTON PARISH.

"NETHER CAIRN", NORTH MUIR. The "Nether Cairn" stands at the base of the slope of North Muir, half a mile N. E. of Medwinbank and rather further S. W. of the "Upper Cairn" (*q.v.*) It is in good preservation, as it shows no sign of quarrying and the medium-sized stones of which it is constructed are not overgrown with turf - in fact its sides, though not its top to the same extent, have an appearance suggestive of fairly recent rebuilding. The "diameter" of the cairn from N. W. to S. E. is 51 ft. 6 in., of which dimension the flattened top accounts for 15 ft. 6 in. The height is 12 ft. The cairn is founded on a platform which projects 4 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. 6 in. beyond the base where it can be measured; On the S. W. it stands 1 ft. high, Outside the platform traces of a ditch can be seen virtually all round; on the S. E. it can be measured as 7 ft. 6 in. broad. Outside the ditch on this same sector a band of heather 6 ft. broad stands out among the swampy grasses and shows the former position of a counter-scarp mound. (Photos.)

iv. S. E.

June 24th 1943.

A.G. 19/9/60.

PEEBLESSHIRE.

WEST LINTON PARISH.

SMALL CAIRNS, MEDWIN WATER. On the S. W. slopes of North Muir, about half-way between the summit and the Medwin Water, there is a group of small cairns similar to those noted a mile away near the "Upper Cairn"

(q. v.) In the present case, however, at least one hut-circle, 15 ft. in diameter, was found; while two dry knolls showed pits, hollows and piles of debris which suggested the foundations of settlements although no plans of structures could be made out. It was noted that the subsoil on this hillside was boulder-clay containing very large numbers of stones; extensive clearance of the surface may therefore have been necessary before agriculture was possible.

(Cf. article on the small cairns on Hare Law, in Carnwath Parish, Lanarkshire).

iv. S. E. (unnoted).

June 24th 1943.

R.G. 19/9/60.