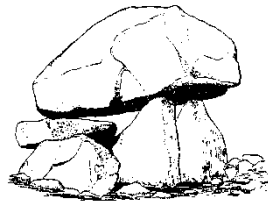


# ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**Survey Report: No. 31**

**Survey of Burial Cairn 3 at Divis,  
County Antrim  
UAS/11/04**



**In association with**



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## 1. Summary

### 1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken of a burial cairn at Divis townland, County Antrim, lying just below the road to the television mast. There are a number of other monuments in the Divis area including five other known burial cairns. The survey was the third in a series of planned surveys undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society during 2011.



Figure 1: View of the monument from the roadway, looking north east

### 1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce accurate plan drawings of the monument and carry out a photographic survey. This information was compiled into a report and copies submitted to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to the National Trust and to the archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Background

The survey of the burial cairn was undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011. It was carried out by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society, in response to a decision taken by the committee of the society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This followed a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. During discussions with Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it was noted that many archaeological sites on National Trust property had not been subject to a detailed archaeological survey. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these sites and this Divis Burial Cairn (designated number 3) was subsequently chosen to be the 31st of these.

### 2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

As far as it is known, there has been no previous archaeological survey at this site.

### 2.3 Cartographic Evidence

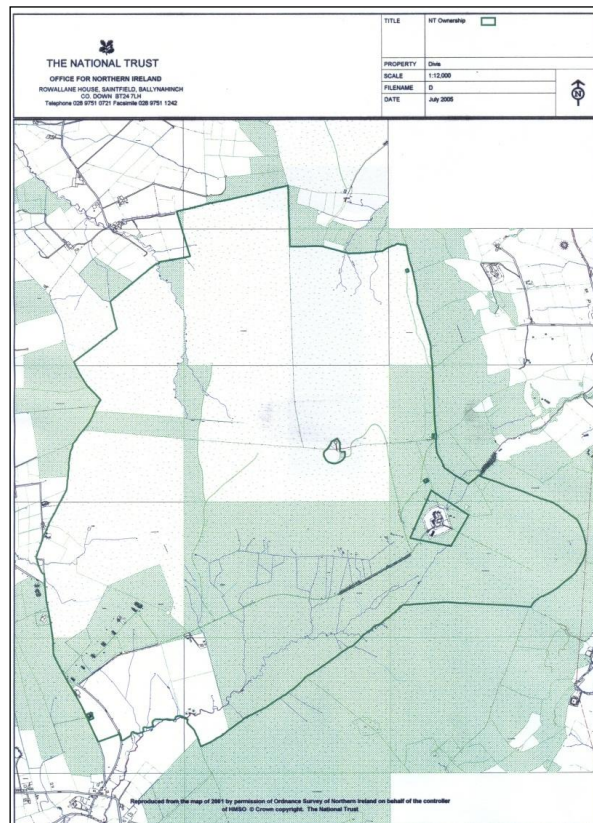


Figure 2: National Trust estate map of Divis property (part of), 2005

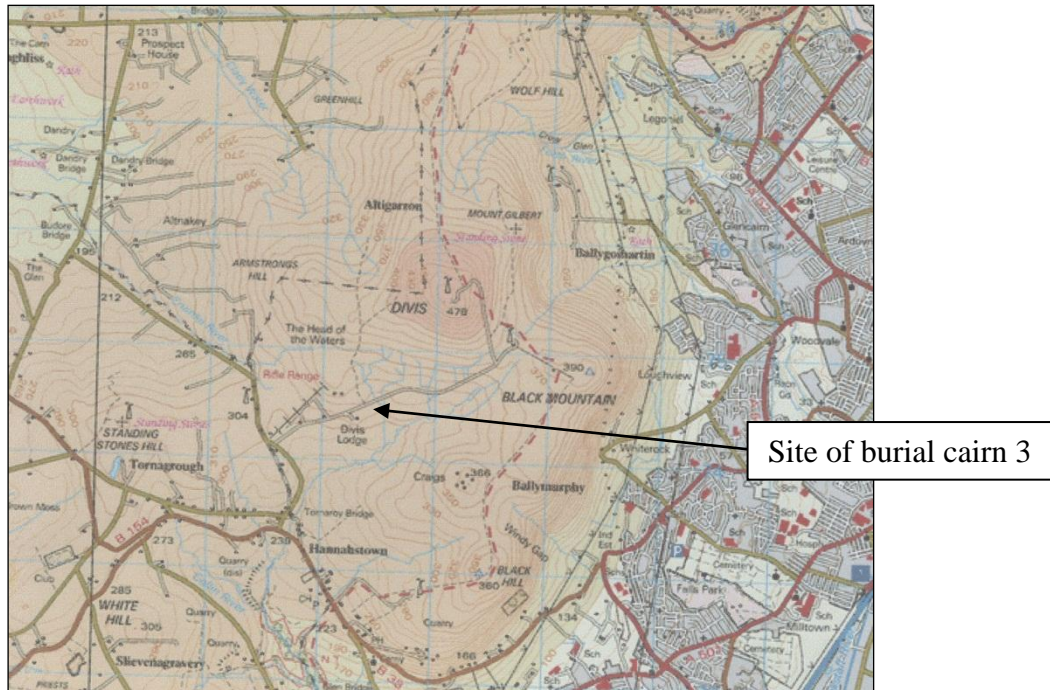


Figure 3 1:50,000 Map Sheet 15, 2000 (part of) Ordnance Survey

## 2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust and the Ulster Archaeological Society. All site records have been archived by the National Trust at Rowallane, Saintfield, County Down.

## 2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh, June Welsh, Carly Cooper, Liz McShane, Lee Gordon, Billy Dunlop, George Rutherford, Anne MacDermott, Billy Dunlop, Michael Catney, Ken Pullin, Janna McDonald, Chris Conway, Noel Mulholland. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

## 3. UAS 2011 Survey

### 3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan drawings and elevations, accompanied by a photographic survey. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

### 3.2 Production of plan drawings

Plan drawings and elevations were completed, using data obtained from the field survey. Measurements were obtained by using a measuring tape and poles. Sketch plans at 1:20 scale were completed on site by recording these measurements on paper on a plane table and

backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. The field plan was later transferred to a computer-based format for printing.

### 3.3 Plan of Burial Cairn

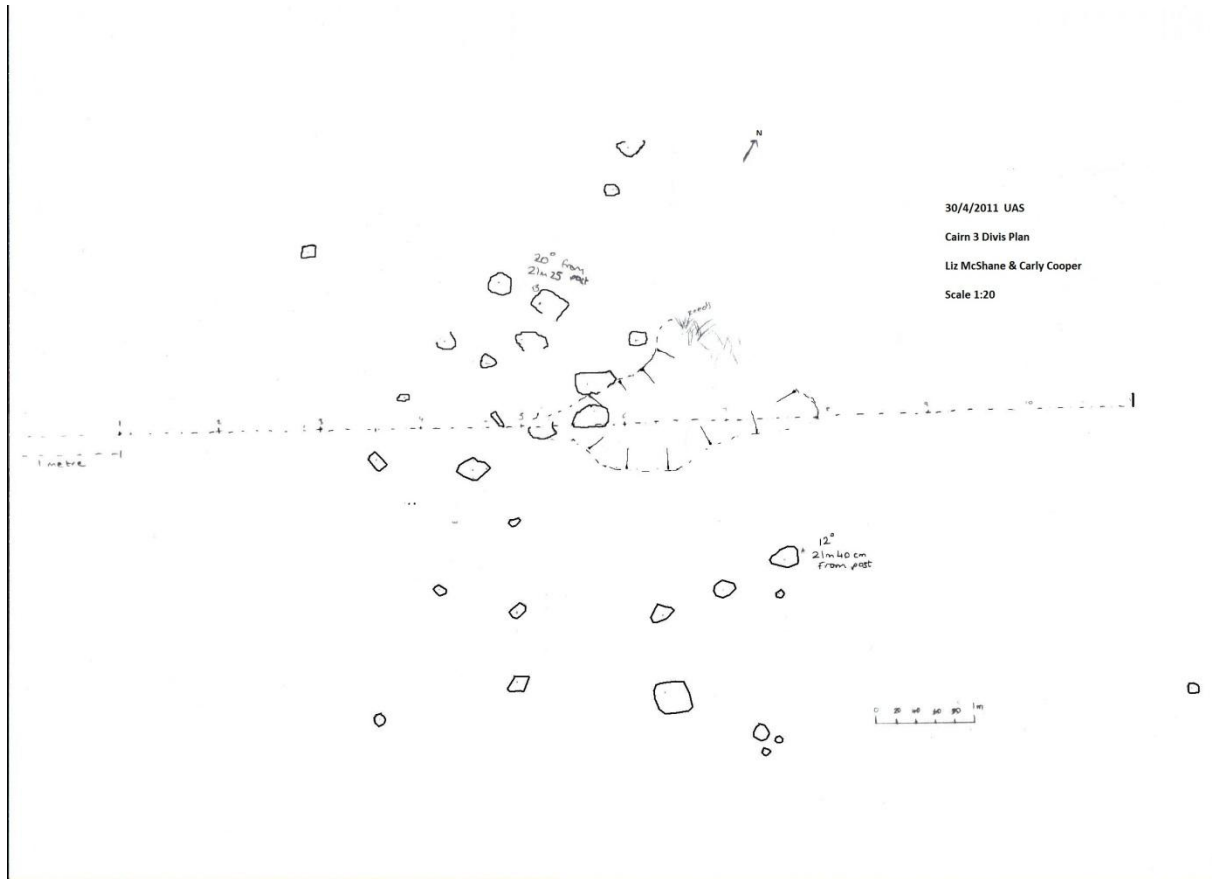


Figure 4 Plan of site:

### 3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Ricoh G600* 8 megapixel digital camera and a photographic record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey on 30.4.11 and on 21.5.11. The archive has been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.





Figure 5: The central area of the burial cairn, looking north-west



Figure 6: UAS survey team members at work

#### **4. Discussion**

The National Trust acquired the land on Divis and Black Mountain in 2004 and the land was opened to the public in 2005. Since then it has been used by a wide range of groups and individuals for walking and recreation, for studying the undisturbed upland habitat and its plants and animals and exploring the archeological landscape.

The survey of this site was part of a wider UAS study of archaeology in the Divis, Black Mountain area.

This monument sits in a valley between the summits of Divis and Black Mountains at altitude of 360 metres above sea level. It is one of a number of monuments in this area where:

a rich and varied archaeological landscape reveals evidence for life and death rituals on the mountain particularly in prehistory. At least four Bronze Age burial cairns are now known along with the site of an earlier megalithic tomb. Prehistoric hut sites survive along with two curious stone walled enclosures, one of which may be early Christian period in date (National Trust 2005).

The monument is best described as a cairn, defined as ‘a mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark’ (Soanes & Hawker 2005, 132). It lies on a site to the east of the road through Divis townland leading to the television mast, past the Barn which is the National Trust Warden’s office. There is a view across to the Lagan basin and the Mourne.

A metal post on the access roadway was taken as the reference point. The monument consists of a series of stones of differing sizes placed in an elliptical shape, surrounding a depression in the ground. It is located on a slope in the ground so that the south eastern side is lower than the north western side. The diameter of the cairn is approximately 4.5 metres. The centre of the cairn is approximately 21 metres from the post. The area inside the monument is grass with a small clump of rushes on one side of the depression in the centre. The surrounding area is of rushes and scrub.

This site has probably been robbed out and damaged by cattle.

It is probably from the Bronze Age around 2,500BC to 300BC

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations for further work**

This site is easily accessible from the road through the hills. It is recommended that an information board be erected at the site, identifying it as a Bronze Age burial cairn.

#### **Bibliography**

- Conway, M. 2004. *Divis Mountain acquisition*. National Trust.  
Conway, M. 2005a. *Divis and Black Mountain, an archaeological update*. National Trust.  
Conway, M. 2005b. *Divis & the Black Mountain; An Historic Landscape*. National Trust.  
National Trust. 2005. *A short guide to Divis and the Black Mountain*. Belfast  
Soanes, C & Hawker, S. (eds.). 2005. *Oxford English Dictionary, Third Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

## PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD FORM

**Site:** Divis Burial Cairn number 3

**Date:** 30.4.11

Film no.	B/W Print	Colour print	Colour slide	Digital image (m.pixels)
				8

**Make and model of camera...Ricoh G600**

Frame no	From	Details
RIMG0009	SW	View of Cairn from the road
RIMG0010	S	View of diameter of cairn
RIMG0011	S	Close up of centre of cairn
RIMG 0012	SE	Site as grassy area surrounded by scrub
RIMG0141	NE	Large stones in cairn
RIMG 0142	SW	Perimeter of cairn
RIMG 0143	S	Central arrangement of stones
RIMG 0144	SW	Scatter of stones on ground
RIMG 0145	SW	Close up of stones
RIMG0146	SW	Cairn site in relation to road
RIMG0147	SW	UAS member in cairn
RIMG 0148	W	Cairn site in the landscape
RIMG0149	SE	Cairn in relation to post as a measuring reference
RIMG0150	SW	Site surrounded by rushes
RIMG0151	S	Close up of centre of cairn
RIMG0152	S	View towards road