

Site Name: Drumelzier Cairn		Region: Scottish Borders (Peeblesshire)	
Grid Ref: NT 12360 32620	Canmore Ref: 49902	NRHE Ref: NT13SW 12	HER Ref:
Permalink: http://Canmore.org.uk/site/49902			

Type of Site: Cairn

Description: This cairn is situated on a low gravel knoll eroding out of the right bank of the Tweed. It was excavated in 1929 and 1930. The process of erosion had carried away part of the cairn material but a ring of boulders apparently marked the original perimeter diameter of about 30'. In all, seven cists were located (1 - 7 on RCAHMS 1967 plan, fig.5), together with a cist-like hollow (8) and three settings of stones (9 - 11) which may originally have been cists.

Dimensions: 9.1 m (primary); 12.2 m (secondary)

Finds: Neolithic pottery, Beaker Urns, jet amulet, whetstone, iron, flint, chert, ring marked slab

Date(?): Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age

Other Comments: The earliest burials seem to have been those in cist 1 and pit 8, both of which were well within the body of the cairn. Subsequently on one or more occasions six more cists (2 - 7) and the three stone settings (9 - 11) were inserted in the NE quadrant (except cist 4) either among or just outside the periphery suggest they were constructed in cairn material, implying the initial cairn was expanded. Cist 3 and probably cist 2 were added during the Bronze Age; the dates of the remainder are not at all certain. But the discovery of a fragment of iron, the jet armlet and part of a whetstone, suggests disturbance during the Early Iron Age. Early Iron Age relics in a cairn of an earlier period is paralleled at Stockie Muir, Stirlingshire.

Plan: (from PSAS 65, 1931)

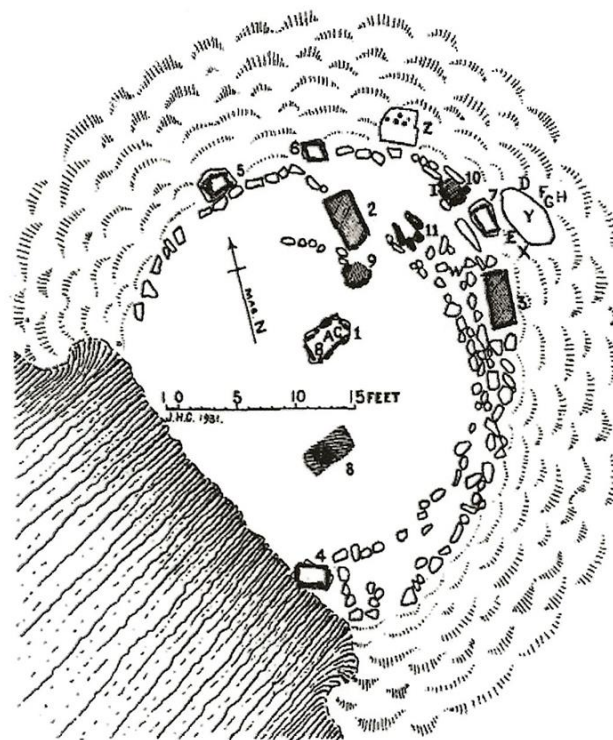


Fig. 7. Plan of Drumelzier Cairn.