

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Cairn on Holgate How

PARISH: NEW FOREST

DISTRICT: RICHMONDSHIRE

COUNTY: NORTH YORKSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 27928

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): NZ06750473

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

This substantial cairn is situated on the summit of Holgate How, a prominent hill with extensive views in all directions. It is sub-circular with a diameter of 15m by 18m and an average height of 1.5m. The centre of the cairn has been disturbed, leaving a depression c.1.5m in diameter. Limestone fragments are noticeable protruding through the thin turf in places. Approximately 300m to the south and south west of the monument lies a group of prehistoric carved stones. These are the subject of separate schedulings.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Round cairns are prehistoric funerary monuments dating to the Bronze Age (c.2000-700 BC). They were constructed as stone mounds covering single or multiple burials. These burials may be placed within the mound in stone-lined compartments called cists. In some cases the cairn was surrounded by a ditch. Often occupying prominent locations, cairns are a major visual element in the modern landscape. They are a relatively common feature of the uplands and are the stone equivalent of the earthen round barrows of the lowlands. Their considerable variation in form and longevity as a monument type provide important information on the diversity of beliefs and social organisation amongst early prehistoric communities. They are particularly representative of their period and a substantial proportion of surviving examples are considered worthy of protection.

Although slightly disturbed this remains a very substantial monument in a prominent location and retaining further archaeological deposits. It is also closely associated with a group of prehistoric carved stones.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 07th March 1996