

THE RING BANK CAIRN SITE ON
CHEETHAM CLOSE, TURTON/
THE COCKER COBB SITE
BLACKBURN.

M. Butler 2018

A Research Booklet

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**Made with much appreciation to GOOGLE EARTH,Mr Paul
Bennet,Mr John Dixon,Mr Fletcher and Mr Aspin.**

PART ONE

CHEETHAM CLOSE RING BANK CAIRN SITE

PART TWO

COCKER COBB STONE CIRCLE SITE

PART ONE

LOCATION

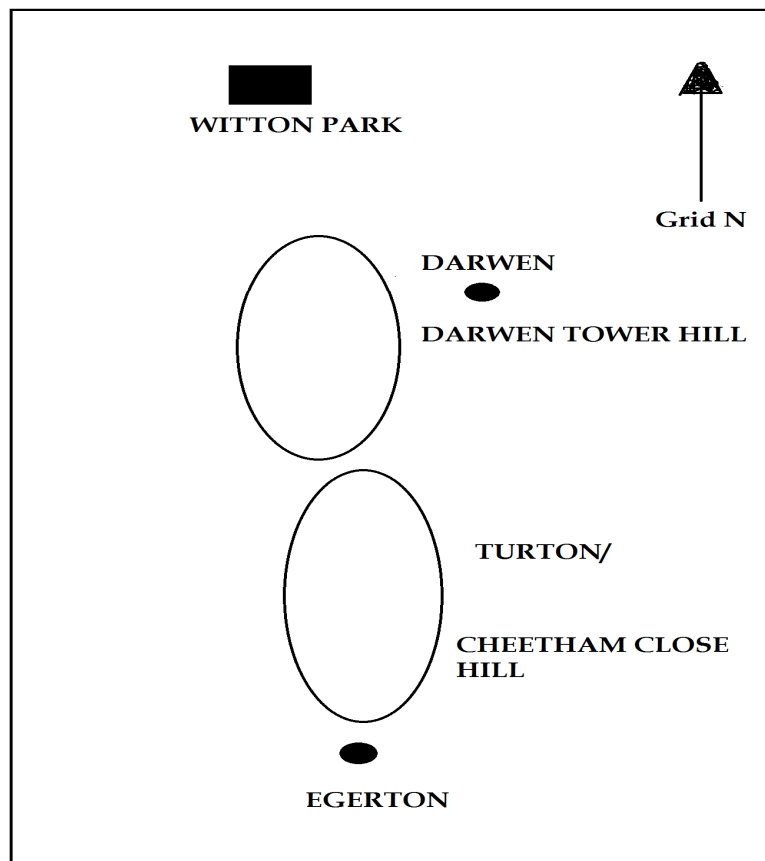
LATITUDE 53 38, LONGITUDE 2.26 - copyright GOOGLE EARTH.

The 51 odd km circuit trail THE WITTON WEAVERS WAY, which starts in Wotton Park, Blackburn, goes past the Bronze Age remains on CHEETHAM CLOSE, about halfway through the circuit. This route simply viewed, starts in Wotton Park then heads South along the western bottom lengths of Darwen Tower Hill and Turton Moor. The route then turns back northward, skirting the opposite lengths of the two hills, passing through Darwen and back to Wotton Park. The circuit passes many historic areas from all ages.

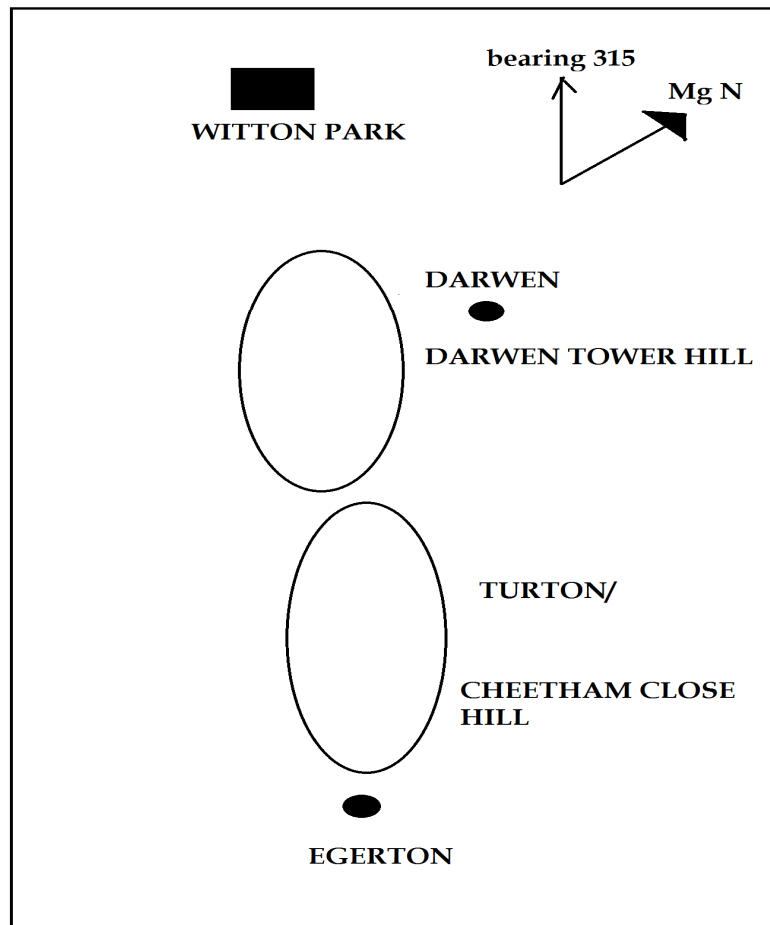
From Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Countryside Services, 2010.

Who advise using the O.S Explorer Map No.287 [West Pennine Moors]

Below is a simplified copy/sketch by me of the area of the Wotton Weavers Way route.



The same copy/sketch, only this time with the LOCAL position of Mg N, measured by me countless times in the Blackburn area and Cheetham Close, which all indicate the same area.



So we would use the O.S/Witton Weavers Map to find our way to Cheetham Close. These maps show the rds/towns/hills on the way for tracking are progress etc.

When we arrive on Cheetham Close to study how the two Bronze Age rings are set out, we need, to start with, my second copy/sketch map, to know where local Mg N is.

Mr Greenhalghs 1871 Plan,available on Wikipedia,has the N location where i locate N.Mr Fletchers 1980s Plans are overlayed with the O.S Grid,he tells us,so Grid North is the reference point.The above two are the most easily available,from numerous National/local organisations,on the Internet.

Also on the Internet is GOOGLE EARTH,which has True North,as the straight up direction,on the satelite images Google supplies us with.This location,approx is in the same location as Mr Greenhalghs and mine.

Summary-

The diameter of the Ring Bank Cairn is the same on Google Earth [2018] and Mr Frenches 1894 plan,[51 yds,19 +32 yds, not his report text.] This diameter is around 35 - 45m.

That is about half the size of The RING of BRODGAR in Orkney,or about the same size as the 2 INNER RINGS inside the stone circle/henge at AVEBURY.

PART ONE

What is a Ring Bank Cairn ?

Prehistoric Cairns can be Long,Round,Stalled or Ring or we can have a Cairn circle,which is the remaining outer ring of a circular Cairn.Some Cairns can be kerbed.

Ring Bank Cairn

Defined as a circular or slightly oval low embankment,[0.5m high].The embankment being several metres wide.

Diameters being from 8 - 20 metres.

From

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ring_cairn&oldid=760955636

A Ring Bank Cairn is sometimes called a Ring Bank Enclosure.They are found in Cornwall,Wales,England and Ireland.

Sometimes having a later Cairn built in the centre.Thought to have been built around 2000 B.C.In the central areas pits with cremations are found or graves.Sometimes fireplaces are found.

We know from Mr Greenhalgh and French that a low drystone wall was combined with the earth outer bank,at the site on Cheetham Close.

The two inner rings at Avebury,[two rings of upright megaliths.]

From Avebury and Windmill Hill A.Keiller excavations by I Smith -

From pg 201 of I.Smith "4 prehistoric pits were uncovered in the area immediatley to the north of the Obelisk."1.5 diameter by 1.5ft deep,approx.[In the south inner circle]

Pg 204, In 1880 ,A.C.Smith recounted an incident - an urn full of bones was discovered in the South inner circle.

So another similarity here maybe,if there are prehistoric pits

found at the Cheetham Close Ring Bank site. I am reminded of the Aubrey Holes at Stonehenge, where originally the cremations of tens of people had been placed, but in a large ring well outside the Huge Trilithion ring. The bigger the population in an area probably = more cremation pits and larger monuments/earthworks.

As the average diameter is doubled at Cheetham Close, then the workforce will be double the average workforce.

In Mr Dixon, pg 89, vol eleven, Cheetham Close Stone Circle Complex -

He suggests that the Ring Bank sites may have been originally dwelling places, a roofed hut over a central Hearth.

He continues - "the majority of such Ring Bank Cairn sites yield many urn - burial cremations."

THE EVIDENCE

Below is a photocopy from Mr Paul Bennetts easier to read report made from Mr G Frenchs investigation of the Ring Bank Cairn.

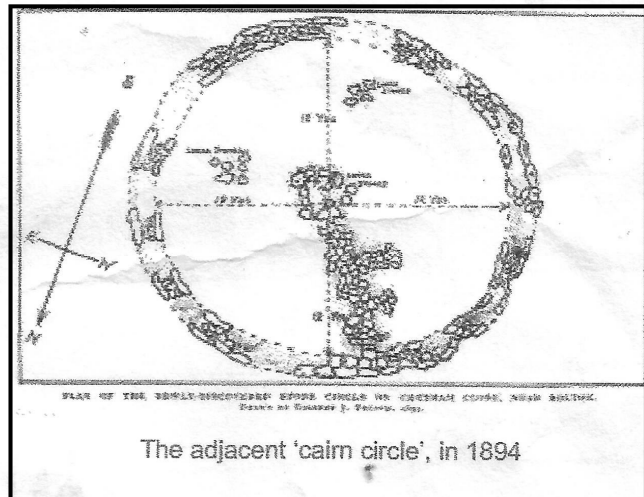
French. Major G.J. "The Stone Circles on Chetham's Close", in Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, 1894.

Cheetham Close, Egerton, Lancashire, The Northern Antiquarian.

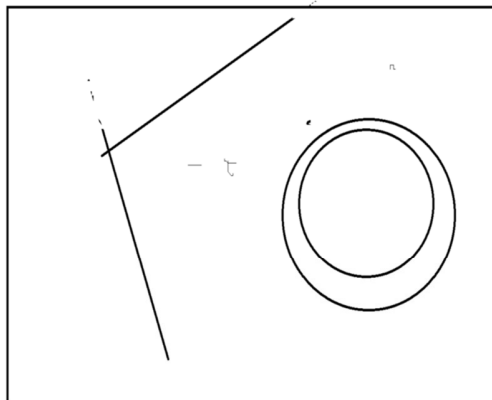
<http://Megalithix.wordpress.com/2009/02/03/Chethams-Close-Lancashire/>

Mr Frenchs mis-recording of the diameter of the Ring Bank Cairn IN THE TEXT, is the source of error that is still used today

"The walled circle being exactly 24yds across".



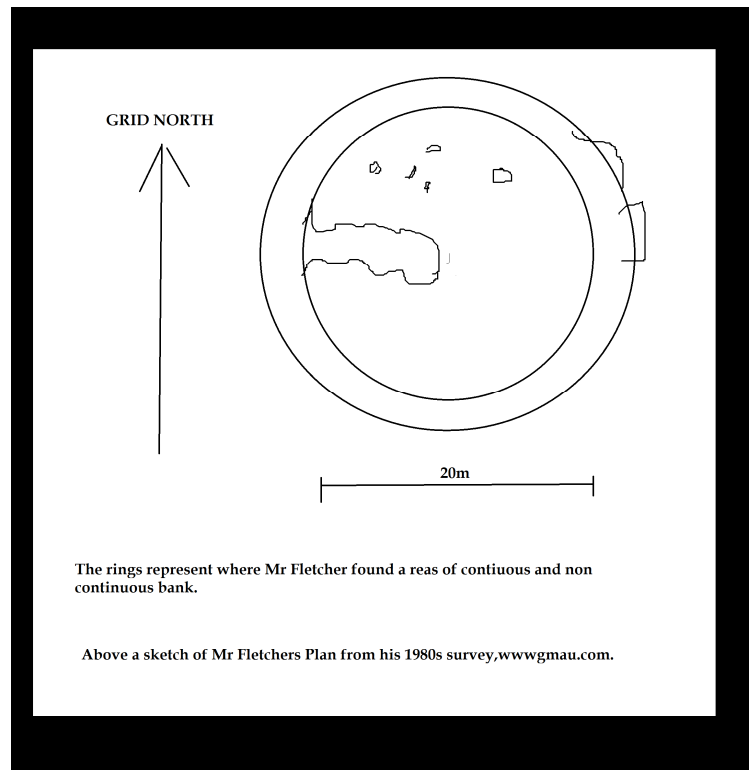
This sentence written opposite the above diagram. The diameter cannot be made out on my photocopy, but can on the original, -with a magnifying glass.

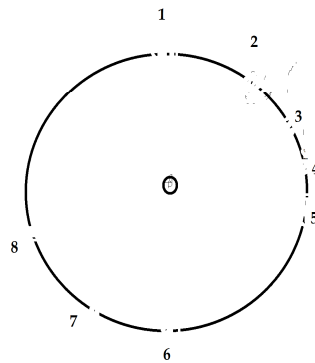


From the Google Earth Image this same site measures 71.45 m across.

This is roughly the same diameter of the lowest of the THREE LOWES, which lie approx at 35 degs from the Ring Bank Cairn site.

Measuring with a protractor on Mr Frenchs plan ,the angle from the central area and along the "stone causeway",to the edge of the outer ring is around 335 -340 degs.This is similar to the two outlier sites relating to the stone oval.Particularly the Outlier South site to the western oval edge,-dec+35.





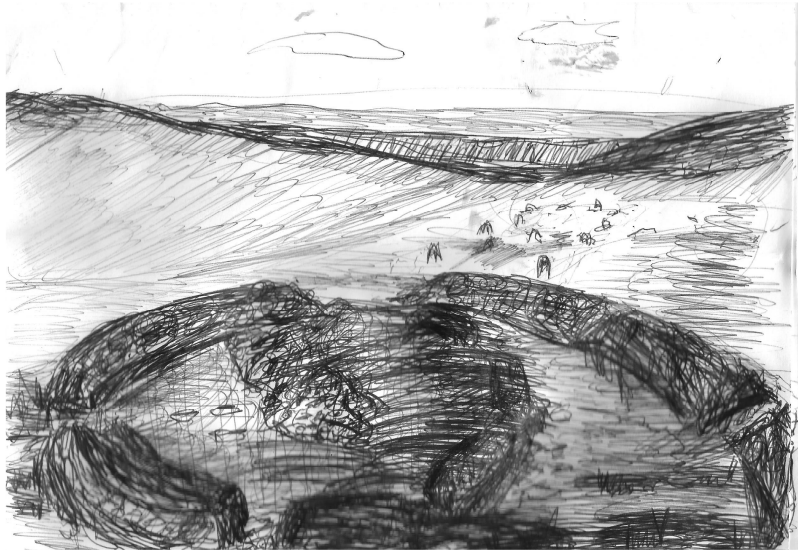
There are 8 gaps in the outer ring of Mr Frenchs plan.
 Observed stood in the central area of the ring,these gaps correspond to,[working clockwise -
 Most northern Full Moon rise,nearest Mid Winter Solstice,
 The Sunrise at Summer Solstice,
 The Sunrise around Beltane/Lammas,
 The Sunrises from mid September to early November
 The most Southern Full Moon set nearest Summer Solstice and
 Sunsets around the end of winter feb,March.

The two other gaps are at N and S.

The Suns rises/sets at important agricultural areas of the year and the Full Moons most southerly and Northerly set and rise points every 18 odd years.

Maybe the long pile of stones area Long Cairn ?

Comparing the this site with the nearby stone oval shows they both are set out,marking similar points of the solar year and the Luna node cycle.The two rings being connected,nearly by the newly discovered Portal entrance,whose central axis is aligned on the Samhain Sunset.

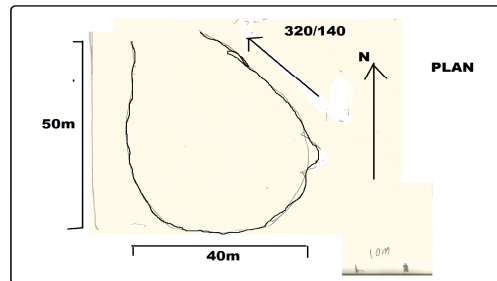
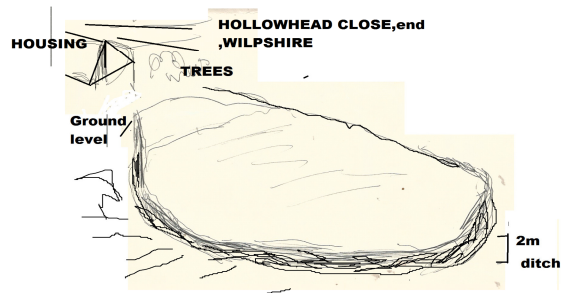


My rough sketch of the two rings on Cheetham Close.

A Neolithic monument just outside Blackburn, of comparable size -

The CLOUGH LONG MOUND

Sited on a section of overgrown
land, directly east of a cultivated field.

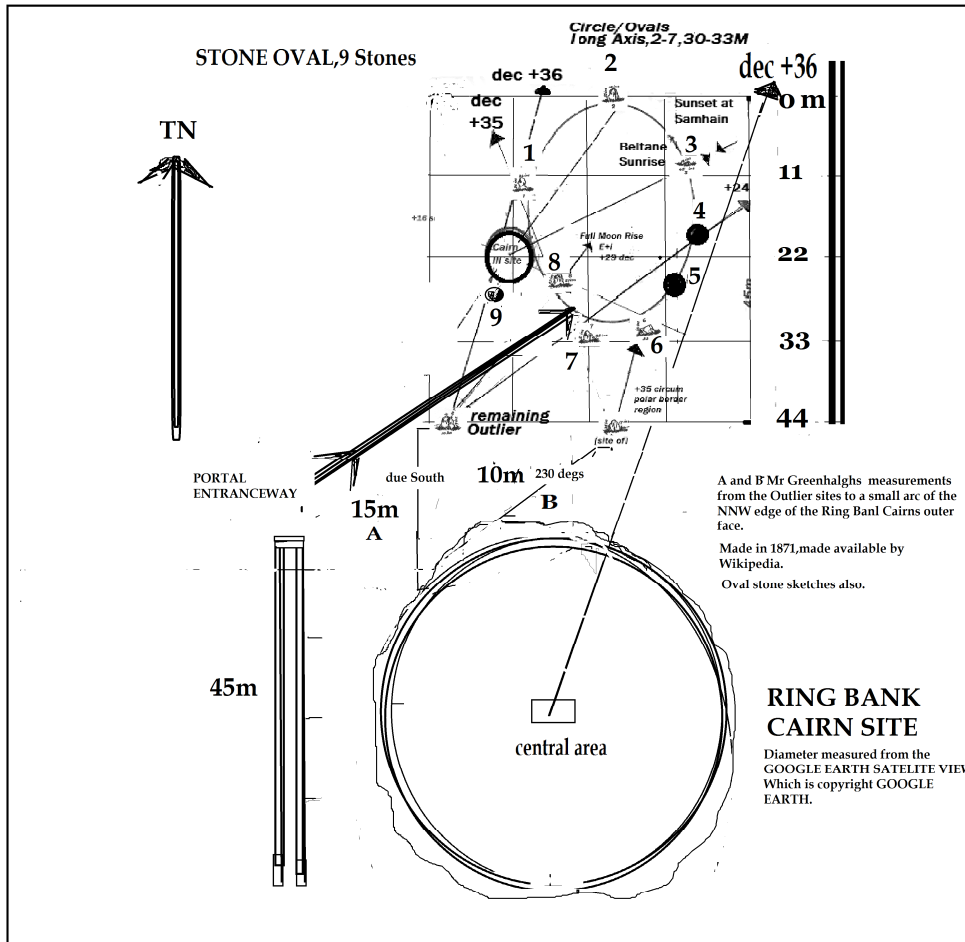


Tracings of the GOOGLE EARTH SATELITTE PHOTO of Wilpshire, Lancs.
THESES TRACINGS AND INFO ARE COPYRIGHT GOOGLE EARTH.

The Ring Bank Cairn on Cheetham Close seems to have been made with sun and moon rise and set points, witnessed by an observer in the central area, as the dominant guiding measure for laying out the wall/earth bank. Gaps in this bank/wall serve the same purpose as some upright megaliths in stone circles. In this case the gaps mark sun and moon rise and sets, to the central area of the Ring Bank Cairn.

The fig below shows another possible relationship with the stone oval, which involves neither the sun or moon. The popular Circumpolar NNW and NNE border areas that are marked with the two Outliers and stone oval. As we can see the NNE dec +36 line marks the approx NE edge of the oval, obs stood in the central area of the Ring Bank Cairn. The Western side appears to mark the North point.

PLAN OF CHEETHAM CLOSE TWO RINGS





The +36 dec line, stood by the remaining Outlier, going through the pile of stones in the mid ground.

Onwards to the distant horizon of Longridge Fell NE end area.

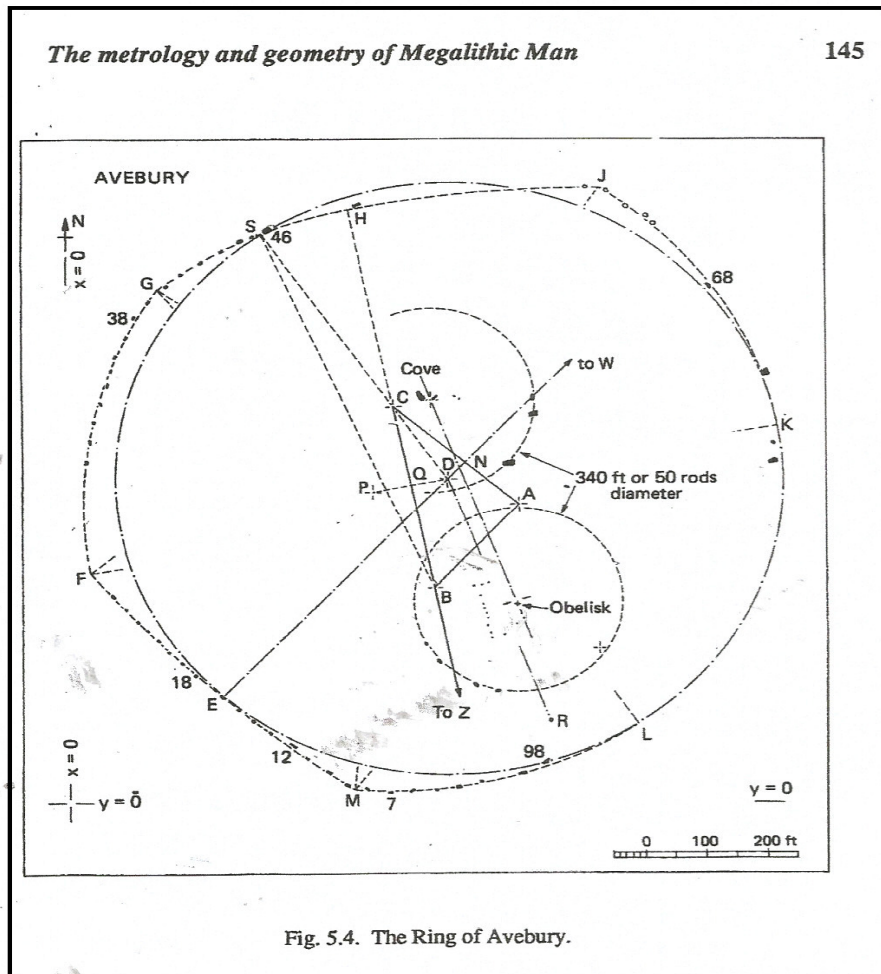


Fig. 5.4. The Ring of Avebury.

The above plan coming from C.Ruggles,Ed,RECORDS IN STONE ,CUP.

The centres of each inner ring line up at 340 degs,which again at this latitude is around the Circumpolar Border Region,dec +36 NNW.

THE CIRCUMPOLAR REGION

Consisting of the stars that never set .

COAL PITS ON CHEETHAM CLOSE

A list of coal shafts dug throughout the Lancs Coalfield, compiled and made available by Wikipedia, lists Cheetham Close in the shafts in existence since 1854 list. Not so long ago, a small lorry passed me walking in the Blackburn Suburbs, the name painted on the side was Cheethams Coal, the lorry was heading in the Darwen direction.

From looking for a while at the Google Earth images of Cheetham Close top, which are covered in holes and the piles of earth from those holes, I am thinking these are something to do with coal being dug from Cheetham Close.

PART TWO

COCKER COBB

Thanks to Mr Fletchers Survey of Cheetham Close, [www.gmau.com], I first became aware of a place on the outskirts of Blackburn called Cocker Cobb. An excavation took place here he tells us, by someone aided by Ms Catherine Hindle, pre the mid 1980s, I am guessing. A few years went by, then the name cropped up again, Mr Chris Aspin of Helmshore Local History Society, informed me that there used to be a stone circle at Cocker Cobb. Mr Aspin then referred me to a newly published book, [2014] written by an old friend, Mr John R. Hoyles Megalithic Matters, published by Matador.

On pg 99, Mr Hoyle writes about a stone circle that used to exist near Cocker Cobbs, a slender 5 ft stone remains standing. This information came from Mr Aspin, who was told by a Major Halstead, who heard it from his mother.

I visited this area with GOOGLE EARTH.

Sited in an area next to the outlet for the brook called the Cocker, by the side of the Blackburn to Haslingden rd. Bordered to the NW by Cobb Ln, Cocker Cobb is a small

area of woodland and open field. According to an O.S map from 1849, available from [old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk). About 200m above sea level.

This site is approx 300m NNE from the Haslingden rd and consists of 5 or 6 large boulders in a group. About 12m in length.

Measuring angles on the overhead map and then using the 3d function to estimate hts and horizon profiles for an observer stood at the Cocker Cobb area, I found some interesting info.

The view to the N -NE consists of a long tapering, slanted hill horizon, I'd say about 1 deg, this starts around due North. At about 33 degs the profile of Pendle Hill appears, sticking up covering the first horizon and looks very conspicuous.

The flat hill line of Thirteen Stone hill, at about 2 degs ht, runs from 100 - 120 degs. The Revidge area of Blackburn lies between 300 - 310, on the overhead from Cocker Cobb. Further behind is Wilpshire.

Due south of Cocker Cobb is Edgeworth in Turton, due North is Gt Harwood.

So an observer stood at Cocker Cobb would see -

The most northerly Full Moon nearest Mid Winter Solstice, the e + i, rising out of Pendle Hill, dec +29 degs.

The Sunrises of early to late Autumn rising from Thirteen Stone Hill, followed by the rest of the year's sunrises until Mid Winter Solstice rising out of Oswaldtwistle Moor. Then a repeat cycle back upwards from Mid Winter to early Spring, Oswaldtwistle Moor to Thirteen Stone Hill.

The most southerly N rise e - i Full Moon nearest Mid Winter Solstice setting into the mid horizon, beyond which lies the area of Revidge, in Blackburn, along with the huge Neolithic Long Mound butting on to a housing estate, South of Wilpshire Golf Course, at around 305 degs, = the set location for the most southerly, n cycle Full Moon, the min MOON. [See Mr J. Lambs Prehistoric sites of Lancashire 2010 Gazeateer.]

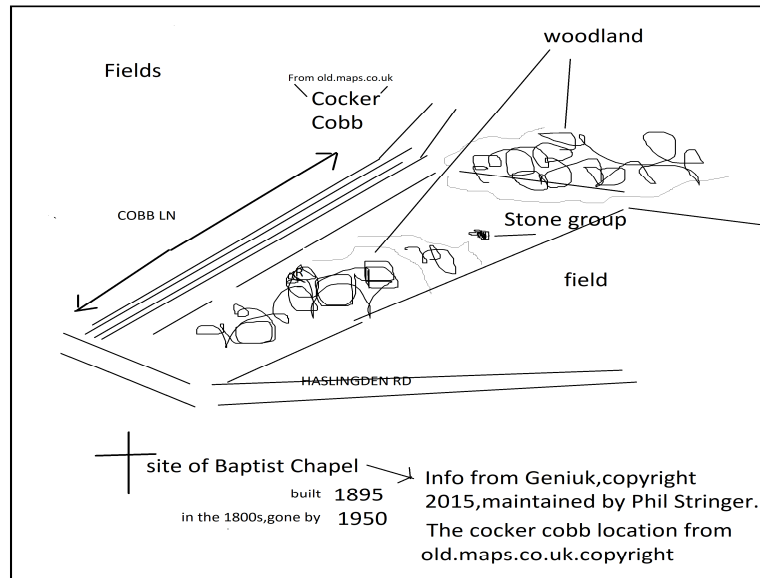
Cocker Cobb is lying next to COCKER BROOK. The stone circle once here can be compared to two other stone circles, Avebury and Stonehenge. [Both near rivers.] Avebury lies at a low point on the Ridgeway Ancient Trackway, maybe Cocker Cobb is similar.

The word cob [meaning 2] from the OE dictionary means material for walls made of

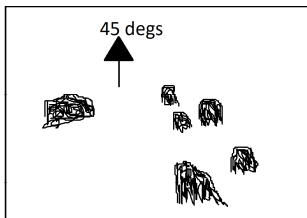
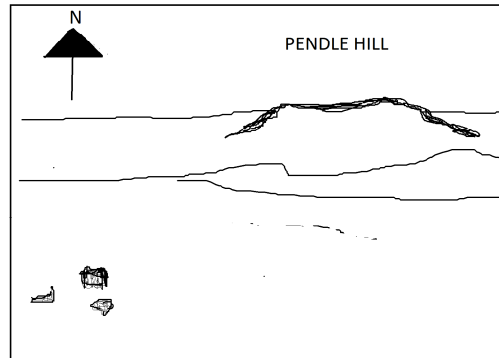
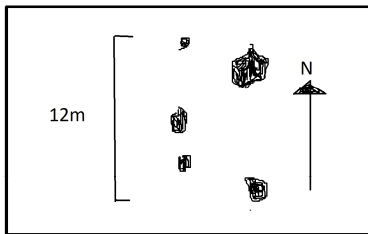
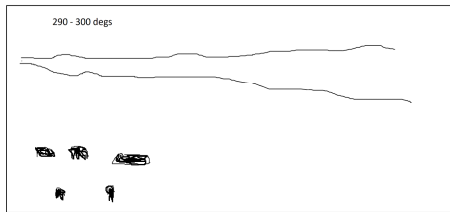
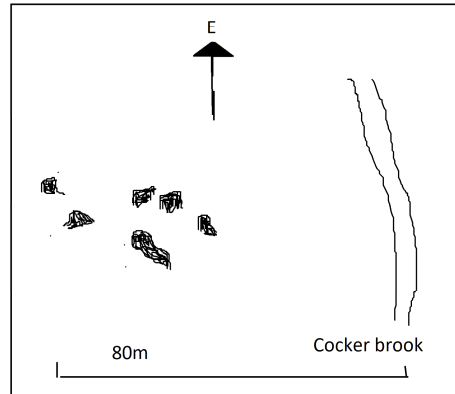
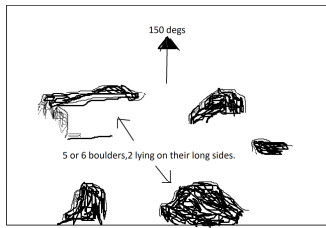
compressed earth,clay.

Cock usually refers to the male of a domestic fowl,from Old English cocc and Old French probably from medieval Latin coccus.

Cobb meaning 2 - a rounded lump of coal etc,or a domed loaf of bread,from mid English.



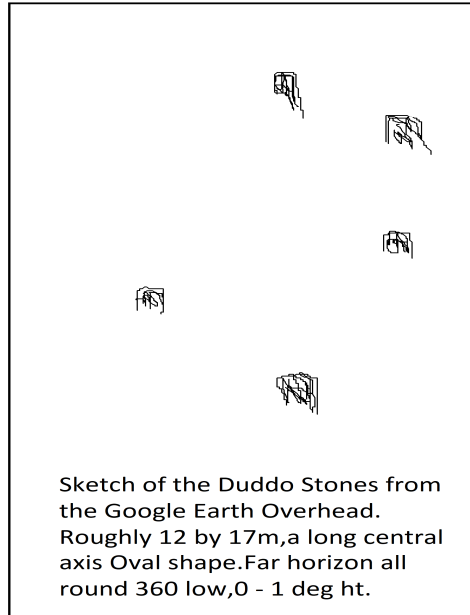
Below are some tracings i made from the Google Earth satellite images,[plan and 3d],of what appears to be a stone arrangement or vandalised stone circle.This group were the only stones i could see in the Cobb area, as you can see the two largest stones are lying on their long sides.Measurements and angles from Google Earth copyright.



The name Cobb may well have originated from this stone group, viewed from certain angles the group suggests a loaf like shape.

This ring reminds me of the DUDDO FIVE stones ring in Northumberland, near the Scottish border. [4000 years old] These stones were known as the four stones before 1903, when a fifth was re-erected. There were originally seven stones, the sockets being discovered in the 1890s. INFO from a WIKIPEDIA stub.

DUDDO



So two similar monuments over a hundred of km apart.

{As i finish this sentence,issue 152 March 2018,of Northern Earth has just been delivered,to my house,on the front cover is a great photograph of Duddo stone circle,taken by Mr John Billingsley.}

CONCLUSION

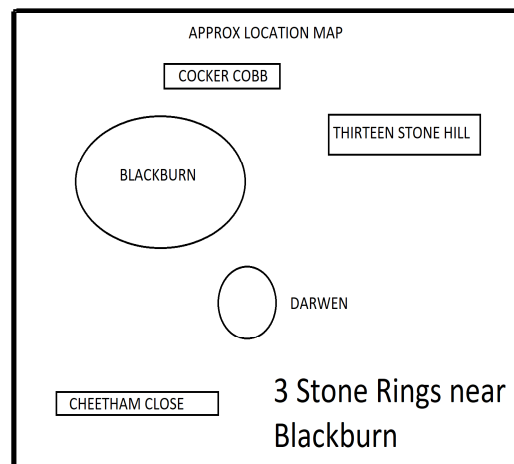
If the ages are similar,Cocker Cobb ring would have been contemporary with the stone rings on Thirteen Stone hill and Cheetham Close,Turton. The latter two have suffered damage. So the Cocker Cobb rings state,now has shared the same fate,i believe. As i have shown,viewed stood at the remaining cross inscribed SW Outlier,or portal stone at Cheetham Close smashed Oval ring, Thirteen Stone hill is where the e + i Full Moon rises from, nearest the mid winter solstice.This could be one of the earliest alignments,as Mr Fletcher theorizes - the cross inscribed Outlier may have first been erected as a trackway marker.With the "delicate" positioning of this stone,at a point where Thirteen Stone hills top, just appears from behind the mid horizon of Hoddlesden Moss,[walk 10 m further NNE ,towards the oval ring and Thirteen Stone hill disappears.] Aswell as being aligned on a significant once in

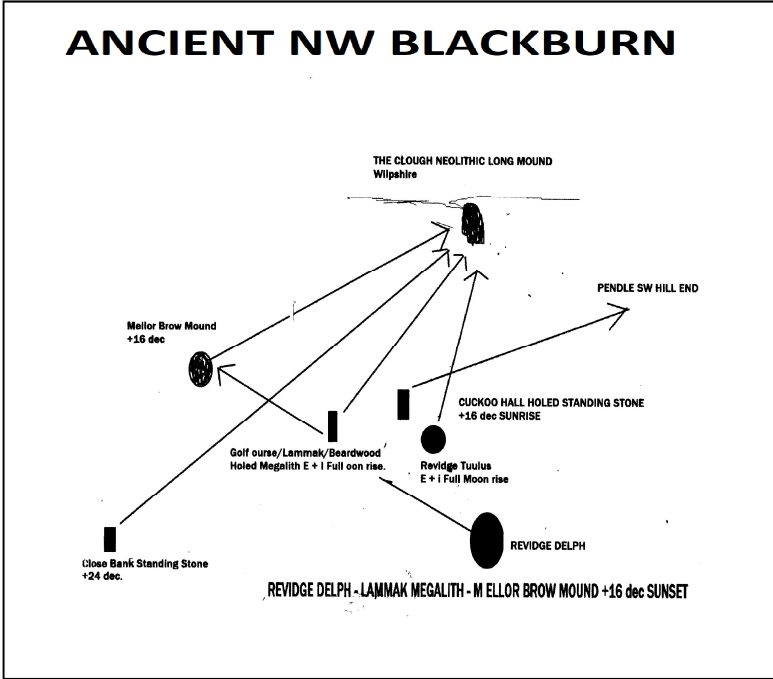
18.5 year full moon rise location,iam thinking this reason is more likely,for the stones location.

This compares well with the Ring Bank Cairns bank gaps,obs from the central area,they share the same inbuilt "subject indicators",Cocker Cobb ring links to Thirteen Stone hill with the sunrises of late Autumn and early Spring,which,as we see on the Plan i made of the Stone Ring on the hilltop,made from the co - ordinate list supplied by Ausstieger on the Megalithic Portal Website,appears to be what the wide gap in each opposing side of the ring,is aligned on.

The choice of horizon alignment,at the Cocker Cobb site,for the e + i Full Moon rise nearest mid winter solstice,is the legendary PENDLE HILL,which cannot be seen from the Cheetham Close oval/Outlier.However travel about 3 miles NW to Revidge in N Blackburn,go down the N side of the hill that Revidge Delph,[or "THE TANK",as locally known,is at the top of,to the site of CUCKOO HALL.Here amongst the hall ruins is a standing stone around 2m AGL,this megalith has a hole in the upper centre,aligned on the N/S line.If you stand by this stone and are looking NEE,you will see the familiar shape of Pendle hills SW hill end in the distant horizon.This is from where the Sun at around the time of Beltane,rises from.

Iam forever grateful to a long time resident of Lammack,i bumped into one winter morning in Lammack,whilst i was trying to find another holed stone in Lammack,[Known as "The Beardwood Holed Stone"] he guided me to the Cuckoo Hall Holed Monolith.





See www.thedevilsarrowpointnorthblog.wordpress.com for more info.
