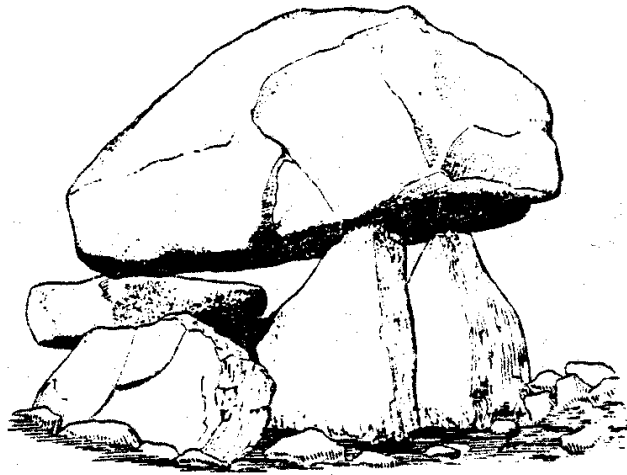


ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Survey Report: No. 2

**Survey of Cairn 2, Black Mountain, County Antrim
UAS/06/02**

In association with



JUNE WELSH & HENRY WELSH

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1. Summary

1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken at Cairn 2, Black Mountain (no SMR number at time of survey), in the townland of Divis, County Antrim, Irish Grid reference J2857 7490.

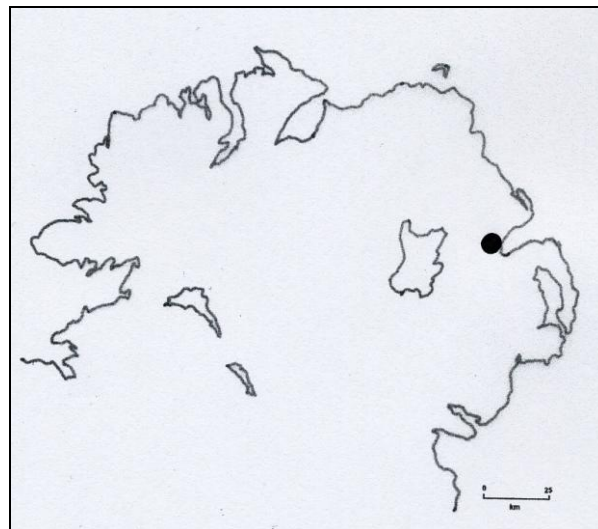


Figure 1: Location map for Black Mountain, County Antrim

Cairn 2 is located within the grounds of the National Trust's Divis and Black Mountain property and the land on which it is situated is currently used for recreational purposes and access to radio and television transmitters. This was the second in a series of planned surveys to be undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society in 2006.

The National Trust property of Divis and the Black Mountain comprises a landholding of some 599 hectares (1,480 acres) of upland grassland and heath, rich in biodiversity and archaeological interest. Divis and Black Mountain are located towards the southern end of a north-south aligned range of upland commonly referred to as the Belfast Hills. At its most northerly end this upland range begins with Carnmoney Hill and travelling southwards includes Cave Hill, Squires Hill, Divis Mountain, Black Mountain, Collin Mountain and finally Slievenacloy (Conway 2005a, 1).

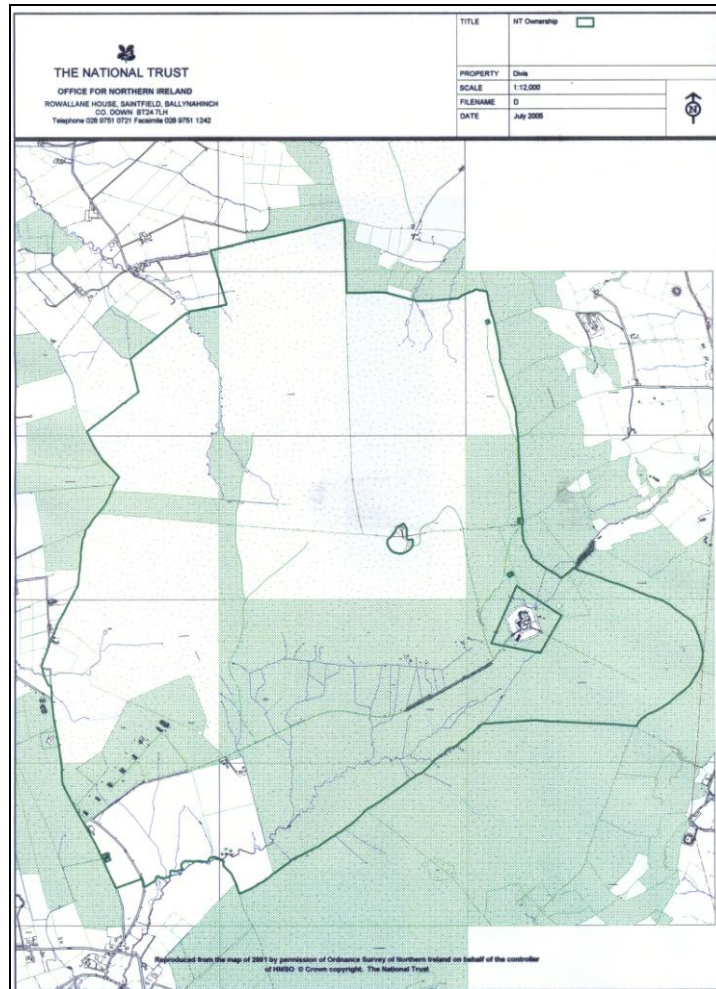


Figure 2: Divis property plan *National Trust*

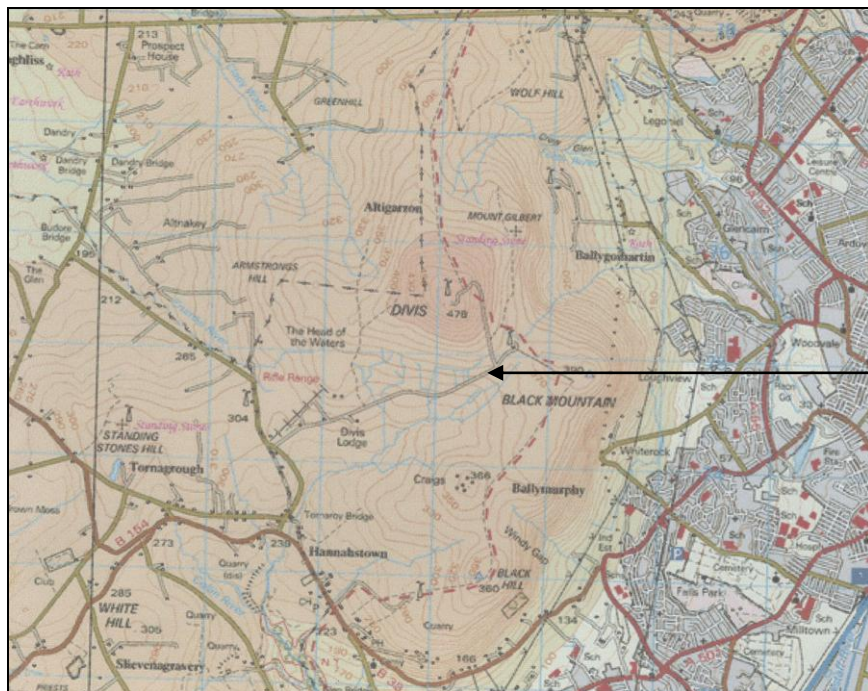


Figure 3: Location map for Cairn 2. *Crown Copyright*

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce accurate plan and profile drawings of the monument, carry out a photographic survey and complete a Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) record form. This information was compiled into a report and copies were submitted to the Environment and Heritage Service and the National Trust.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of Cairn 2 was carried out on Saturday 27 May 2006 by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society. It was undertaken 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 Mr Malachy Conway, Survey 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 the cairn at Black Mountain was subsequently chosen to be the second of these.



Figure 4: UAS Survey Team at work at Cairn 2, Black Mountain

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

As far as is known, Cairn 2 had not previously been surveyed until after November 2004, when the National Trust acquired the land in the vicinity. Shortly after, Cairn 2 was identified as a possible prehistoric cairn by the Survey Archaeologist from the National Trust in Northern Ireland, Mr Malachy Conway.

Prior to the Trust's acquisition of Divis and Black Mountain only 5 archaeological sites were recorded within its boundaries. This included two burial cairns, *Carn Sheaan Bhuidhe* or 'yellow Jack's cairn' [SMR ANT 060:015], from which a funerary vessel was recovered around 1840 and remains of a small slightly oval peat covered basalt cairn located just south of a pillar on Black Mountain [SMR ANT 060:061]. Perhaps most significant from this record was the apparent absence of any monuments particularly from the summits, when those of the surrounding hills in the wider range display prominent burial cairns or forts. One reason for the apparent absence of such features from Divis can be put down to the construction of a military base on the summit, which survives today as an unmanned communications and radar station (Conway 2005a, 1).

With regard to Black Mountain specifically, it was found that

Though not all of Black Mt is contained within the acquisition it can be summarised as having a cairn on the summit, a souterrain on the northern slope, remains of a field system and enclosure to the NE, flintworking sites on the E slope and two occupation sites on the S slope (Conway 2004, 1).

Following a more detailed survey of the Divis and Black Mountain property, it was found that

Dispersed hut sites along the south side of Black Mountain attest to man's presence here in the Bronze Age as does the discovery of round burial cairns, one of which can be seen near the summit of Divis (Conway 2005b, 1).

2.3 Cartographic evidence

As far as can be determined, Cairn 2 has not previously been recorded by the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland and the summits of Divis and Black Mountain are only marked with trigonometrical points (see figure 5 below). However, several other monuments, such as Yellow Jack's cairn are shown.

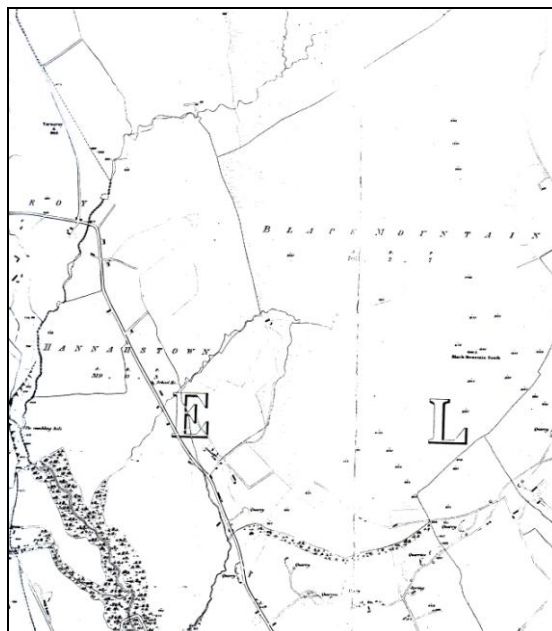


Figure 5: 1832-3 First Edition map of Black Mountain *Ordnance Survey*

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service and the National Trust. All site records are temporarily archived with the Honorary Archivist of the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team were Liz Curtis, William Dunlop, Ian Gillespie, Chris Lynn, Chris Lynn (jr), Roisin McCaughan, Anne MacDermott, Mary Mulvenna, Ken Pullin, George Rutherford and Janey Sproule. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Mr Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access. Assistance was also given by staff of the Queen's University of Belfast, particularly Mr Barrie Hartwell for providing instruction on survey techniques and Mr John Davison for arranging the loan of additional items of survey equipment.

3. 2006 UAS survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan and profile drawings, accompanied by a photographic survey and the completion of a Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) form. A report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of plan and profile drawings

Plan and profile drawings were completed from data obtained from a field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at 1:200 scale were completed on site by recording these measurements on drafting film secured to a plane table and backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. Field plans were later transferred to a computer-based format for printing (figures 6 & 7).

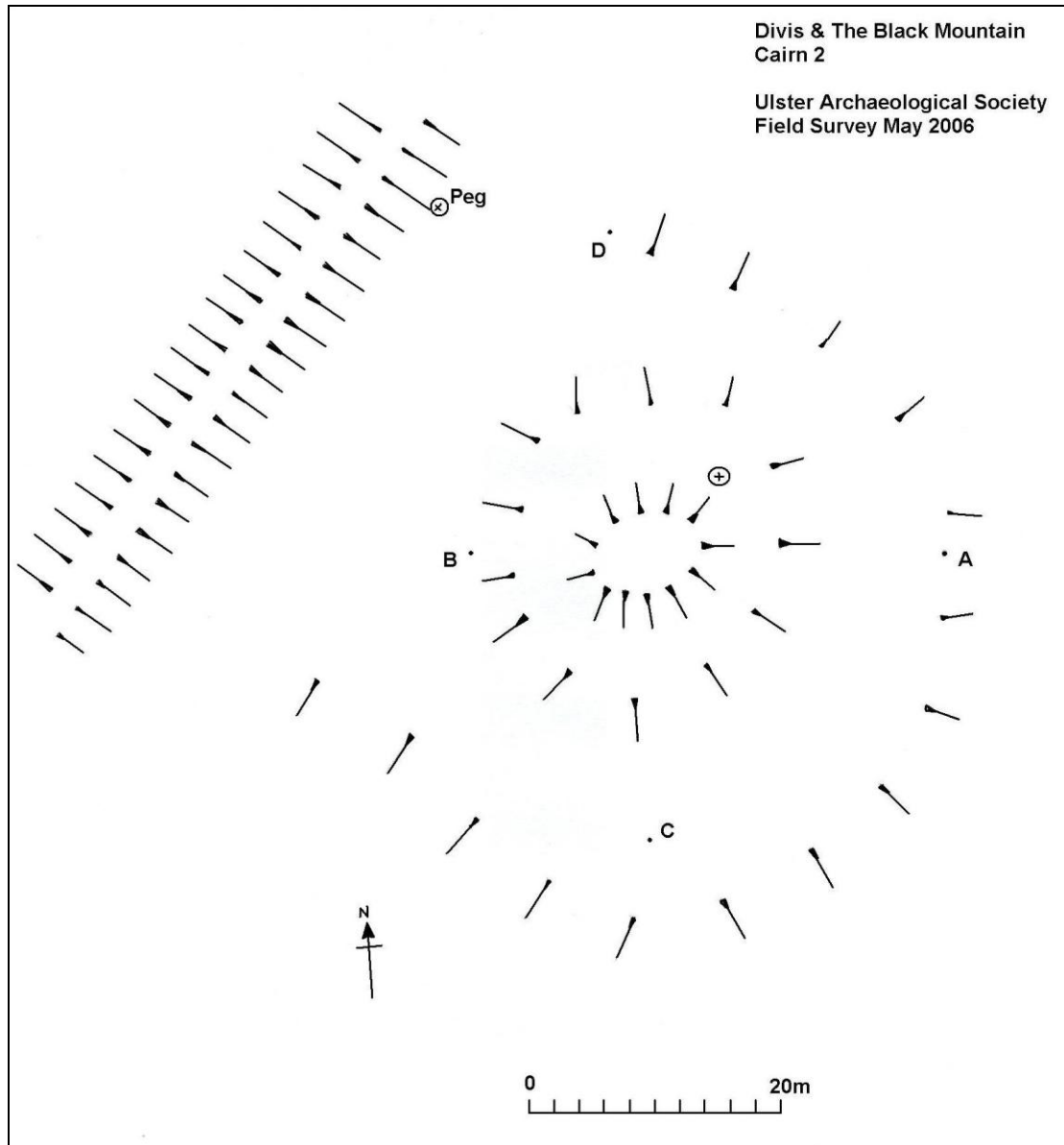


Figure 6: Plan of Cairn 2, Black Mountain

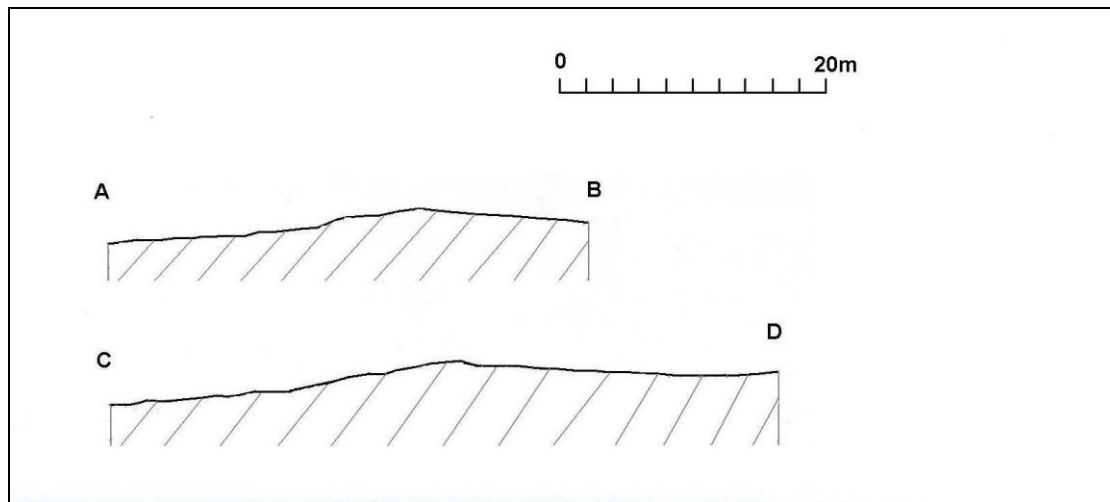


Figure 7: Profiles of Cairn 2, Black Mountain

3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Sony Cyber-shot DCS-H1* 5 megapixel digital camera and a photograph record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey on 27 May 2006. The archive has been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.



Figure 8: Cairn 2, Black Mountain, viewed from the west

3.4 Completion of CAMSAR form

A Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) form was completed by the survey team on 27 May 2006 and is given in appendix 1 below. As far as is known, this is the first occasion on which this type of record form has been completed for the monument.

4. Discussion

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 and

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).



Figure 9: Cairn 2, with Divis Mountain to the north-west

The monument consists of a low circular cairn, approximately 50 metres in diameter and 3 metres in height at the highest point. The centre of the cairn is situated approximately 36 metres from a low linear bank, which bounds the access road to the nearby transmitter station. The cairn is covered with grass and moss but several sub-angular stones (approximately 0.2m in length) are visible at the surface.



Figure 10: Sub-angular stones showing through surface vegetation

During the survey, one flint flake was discovered in a crevice between two of these stones.



Figure 11: Flint flake discovered at Cairn 2, Black Mountain

During the survey, a linear depression was observed approximately 25 metres to the south-west of the cairn. This depression was some 40 metres in length, in a north-west/south-east alignment. It was approximately 2 metres in width and 0.5 metres at its maximum depth.



Figure 12: Linear feature looking south-east

This linear feature is perhaps better understood by consulting the aerial photograph of the site (figure 13). While the feature is not readily visible in this photograph, several other linear features are visible in the vicinity and these may be interpreted as a few of the many pathways that cross the site. The linear feature associated with Cairn 2 may also be the remains of one of these pathways.

The aerial photograph appears to have been taken in winter and prominent features in the landscape were highlighted by a light dusting of snow. Cairn 2 is visible, as is a low circular bank surrounding it. The presence of this bank is confirmed by the plan and profile drawings and its presence would militate against a modern origin for the cairn. While the photographic evidence, survey data and presence of a struck flint flake all point to a prehistoric origin, further investigation, such as limited excavation, may be required to confirm the antiquity of the monument.



Figure 13: Aerial photograph of Cairn 2. *Crown Copyright*

5. Recommendations for further work

In order to obtain more definitive dating material for the monument, the National Trust may wish to consider a limited excavation, or geophysical survey. The monument is not protected from animal interference and is therefore liable to damage from this source. The National Trust may therefore wish to consider restricting animal access to the site by the provision of a suitable fence. This would also indicate the presence of the site to contractors who might be periodically carrying out road maintenance works. However, the presence of an area of restricted access may also encourage vandalism and the illicit use of metal detectors. It is also recommended that the Environment and Heritage Service consider statutory protection of the cairn until such time as its antiquity can be confirmed.

Bibliography

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 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

Appendix 1

CAMSAR (NI) pro-forma						
NISMNo:		Grid Reference: J 2857 7490			Townland: Divis	
Landuse:	5	Structurl:	1	SiteType:	Cairn	Protectn: None Altitude: 360m
Field Boundaries (e.g. contemporary/intrusive later/owners attitude towards monument i.e. dis/regard)						
None						
Landuse						
On Site		Around Site		Comments		
Previous	Present	% site	Previous	Present		
	20	100			National Trust property and television transmitters	
Fencing						
Site Fenced? Y/N:		N				
Condition e.g. broken:		N/A				
Type of fence :		N/A				
Distance of fence from edge of monument:		N/A				
Remains						
Is the site visible?		Archaeological site?		Survival		Condition
Y/N		Y/N?		1 2 3 4 5 6		1 2 3 4 5 6
N		Y		3		3
Comments (e.g. human interference and management)						
Surface Problems (e.g. ploughing, trampling, planting, scrub growth: localized/widespread)						
Animal damage due to grazing						
Sub-Surface Problems (e.g. rabbits, badgers, subsidence: localized/widespread)						
None visible						
Damage Sustained						
Past		Recent		Future Risk		Observations
Category	Extent%	Category	Extent%	Category	Extent%	
3	2	3	2	3	1	
Photographs						
Digital photographic sur Previous			Present			
Source+Cat No	Date	Caption		Reel No	Frame No	Caption

PHOTOGRAPH RECORD FORM

Site.....Cairn 2, Black Mountain

Date.....27 May 2006

Film no.	B/W Print	Colour print	Colour slide	Digital image (m.pixels)
				5

Make and model of camera: *Sony Cyber-shot DCS-H1*

Frame no	Direction viewed from	Details
BM001	N/A	Aerial photograph
BM002		UAS survey group at work on Black Mountain
BM003	N/A	Flint flake with scale
BM004	North-east	Flint flake at find spot
BM005	South-east	Linear feature
BM006	West	Cairn 2
BM007		Sub-angular stones showing through surface vegetation
BM008	South-east	Cairn 2 with Divis Mountain to the north-west
BM009	South-west	Cairn 2
BM010	South-west	UAS Survey group at work