

Between the 2nd and 12th July 2012 the Ingleborough Archaeology Group undertook the excavation of a putative round house at Spring Cote, Chapel-le- Dale. The site is one of a number of features which together comprise MYD 3676 in the Historic Environment Record: "Iron Age/Romano British Settlement, Twistleton Pastures".

The trench

We opened a 5.0m x 5.0m trench taking in both the inner and outer faces of a sub-circular bank which also included an area where there was a particularly high magnetic anomaly. The trench also included a dip in the bank which was thought could be an entrance. As the excavation progressed a 1m² extension was added to the NW and a 2.0m x 0.5m extension was added to the SW.



The excavation concentrated on the inner face of the bank and on the area enclosed by the bank. A 3.5m x 1.0m section in the NW of the trench was excavated down to the bedrock as was a 1m² section in the southern corner. **Photo 1** shows the final excavated trench looking SE with the bank running diagonally across the trench from the bottom LH corner to the top RH corner. Bedrock is in the foreground on the right.

Photo1

photo A. Batty

What we found

1. A raised curved bank with stone pieces and a few possible facing slabs on its inner edge but no clearly defined wall with inner and/or outer faces
2. A large number of pieces of burnt sandstone. These were particularly concentrated in an area towards the eastern corner of the trench – outside the structure – as well as being well scattered within the bank and the structure itself. What we didn't find was a hearth!
3. Sieving environmental samples from within the structure down to 40 microns revealed very small pieces of charcoal and flakes of metal.
4. A number of large flat sandstone flags – some just beneath the surface and others on a thin layer of soil just above the bedrock. **Photo 2** shows some of these flags in situ – those to the left of the photo being close to the surface, those to the right being close to the bedrock. **Photo 3** clearly shows a large sandstone flag protruding from the section just below the LHS of the ranging pole. Some of the flags which had been removed are laying on the grass outside the trench.
5. A small piece of charcoal from within the structure which may be suitable for dating.



Photo 2

photo C Bonsall



Photo 3

photo C Bonsall

6. A distinctive smooth rounded sandstone rock (**Photo 4**) which was on a thin bed of soil just above the bedrock and which was packed by thinner stones on their edge (**Photo 5** – the N arrow is pointing directly at the rounded stone).



Photo 4

photo C Bonsall



Photo 5

photo C Bonsall

7. What we *didn't find* were any artefacts!

What happens next?

Further analysis of the environmental samples and hopefully a carbon date or two before we come to any conclusions and write up our report!

Chris Bonsall

18th July 2012