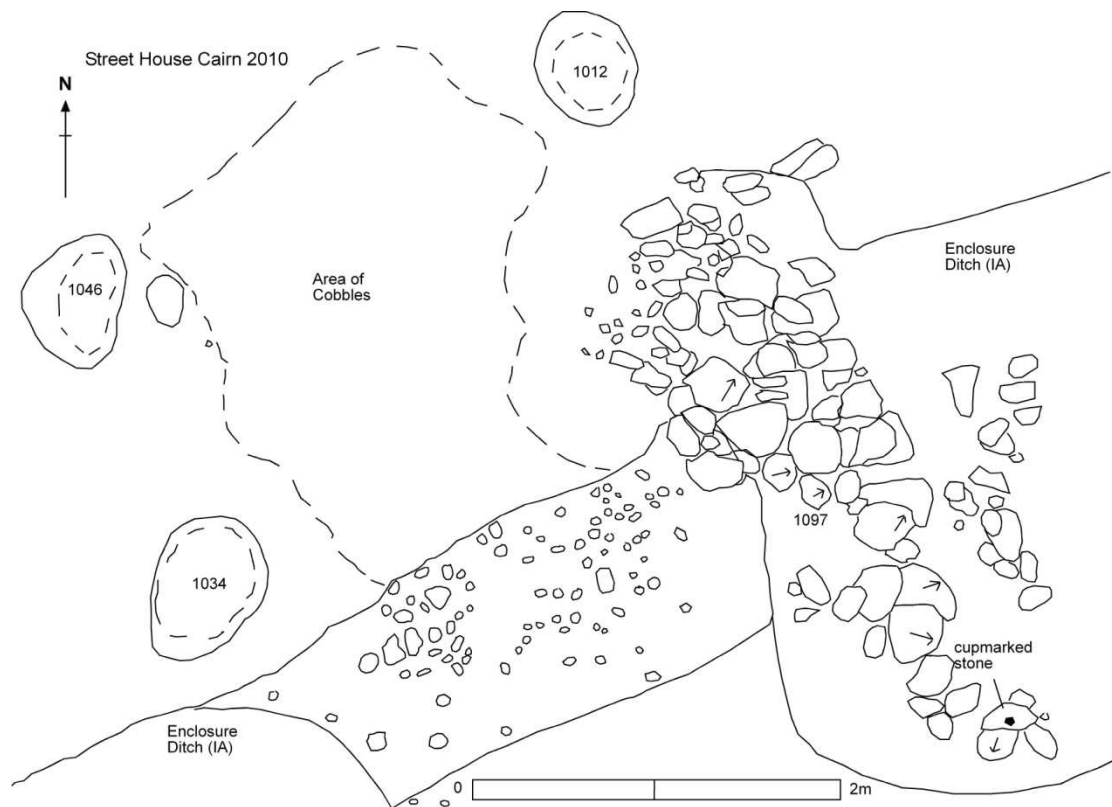


EXCAVATIONS AT STREET HOUSE 2011

Excavations in September 2011 at Street House are hoping to complete the work on two sites discovered in 2010 and to examine two further small areas inside the Iron Age enclosure. The timescale for the work is from early September until Sunday 26th September 2011. Over the years since 2004 the excavations have revealed traces of human activity from the Neolithic Period (c3,000 BC) to the Anglo-Saxon (700AD) this years excavations are designed to complete a picture about the use of one field over that period of time.

In 2010 excavations revealed traces of what is believed to be a Neolithic cairn similar to a site excavated by Blaise Vynner between 1979 and 1981 (Vynner 1984, 1988). This site although altered by later activity has revealed rock art and finds dating from the Neolithic period as well as traces of a facade trench, mortuary structure and enclosure all of which will be investigated this year.



Plan of the possible Neolithic cairn as planned in September 2010.

The second trench to the east was targeted in 2010 following a programme of geophysics showing a circular feature within an enclosure. Excavations revealed two small possible structures beside parts of a segmented series of ditches. These features are sometimes associated with Bronze Age burial sites. Only part of the site was excavated in 2010 and so it is proposed to expose the full extent of this small site that may be only 10m in diameter.

Two further trenches are proposed to the east and north of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Sherlock 2011a). The strategy is twofold, the Street House cemetery is clearly unique and so parallels for many of the features cannot be found, for example is there an

associated settlement? (Sherlock 2011b). Secondly if this is a Seventh century cemetery is there an earlier sixth century site nearby? Geophysics suggests that there are several features in the immediate area within the Iron Age settlement that are worth examining.

The excavations are undertaken with the support of the landowner, Alan Bothroyd and his family and assisted by members of Teesside Archaeological Society and local residents. This project has the support of Redcar & Cleveland Council Museum Service who have now opened **The Saxon Princess Exhibition** at Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar. The excavations have also been supported materially by A-one Integrated Highway Services and the geophysical surveys are provided by Phase Site Investigations to both of whom I am grateful.

Please note: Please park vehicles between the cottages and the Chapel to leave parking in front of the houses for residents at Upton Cottages (or just inside the field if appropriate).

Steve Sherlock 31st August 2011.

Further Reading

Sherlock, SJ, 2007 *The Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement at Street House, Loftus, North East Yorkshire 2004–2006*. Middlesbrough: published privately

Sherlock, SJ, 2010 *The Excavation of a Romano-British Settlement at Street House, North Yorkshire NZ 7390 1965*. Teesside Archaeological Society, Redcar:

Sherlock, SJ, 2011a “Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the Tees Valley and their association with Neolithic and later Monuments” in Brookes, S, Harrington, S & Reynolds, A, 2007, *Studies in Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology* BAR 527

Sherlock, SJ, 2011b *The Anglo-Saxon Princess Exhibition Guidebook* Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar

Sherlock, SJ, & Simmons, M, 2008 “The Lost Royal Cult of Street House, Yorkshire”, *British Archaeology*, 100, 30–37

Vyner, BE, 1984 ‘The excavation of a Neolithic cairn at Street House, Loftus, Cleveland’, *Proc. Prehist. Soc (PPS)*, 50, 151–96

Vyner, BE, 1988 “The Street House Wossit: The Excavation of a Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Palisaded Ritual Monument at Street House, Loftus, Cleveland” *PPS*. 54, 173-202