

INGLEBOROUGH
UPDATE.
2021



A Batty.
2021

Front Cover. Looking along Park Fell (Langhals) with Ingleborough in background.

Photograph. A Batty.

Ingleborough

Latest Research.

In 2009 we published a paper concerning our archaeological research on the summit of Ingleborough (Batty A, Crack N. 2009). We realised at the time the amount of surface erosion taking place could eventually make it very difficult to obtain any more information from the archaeological remains. At this time several of the archaeological and historical organisations were attempting to put together a research plan for excavating and dating the remains. From what I can remember this never got past the initial discussion stage because none of the organisations could agree who was to be responsible for the project.

With this in mind we examined how it would be possible to obtain samples for carbon dating that would have a high percentage chance of being accurate, but would cause minimal ground surface disturbance. We decided to try and obtain a sample of organic material from below a structural foundation stone that we judged to be in situ and in a position where ground levelling prior to construction was unlikely to have taken place. This was particularly important where the rampart sample was concerned due to the possibility of summit edge slope levelling.

The method of sample extraction used is shown in (Fig 3) this is a piece of flexible PVC tubing with a short piece of copper pipe inserted in the end. A ground surface area of approximately 200mm x 200mm was removed down to below the underside of the foundation stone where a layer of organic material approximately 25mm thick was present. This was removed to a point approximately 150mm under the foundation stone, this enabled a sample to be taken that was less likely to be contaminated by later deposits on the outer edge of the foundation stone. The copper pipe inserted in the PVC tubing was pushed into the remaining deposit, filling the copper pipe which was then extracted and the sample bagged and recorded, this method was used to take both samples. The layer of organic remains underlying both the rampart and transient use circle suggested to us that no surface clearing, or levelling, had occurred in either of these locations prior to construction.

We stated in our publication of 2009 that the rampart may have been constructed around 1100BC to 1000BC, with some of the less well defined transient use circles also being from this period. We also suggested that the well defined transient use circles may represent a later period around 500BC to 400BC, these statements have now been substantiated. We do not have a C¹⁴ date for the less well defined circles but as previously stated these are possibly contemporary with the construction of the rampart.



Plate 1. Red dot marks location where sample was taken. This was from below an in situ foundation stone of the rampart wall SD 74369 74543. *Photograph. A Batty.*



Plate 2. Red dot marks location where sample was taken. This was from below an in situ foundation stone of transient use circle No 8. SD 74186 74468. *Photograph. A Batty.*

Calibration Plot

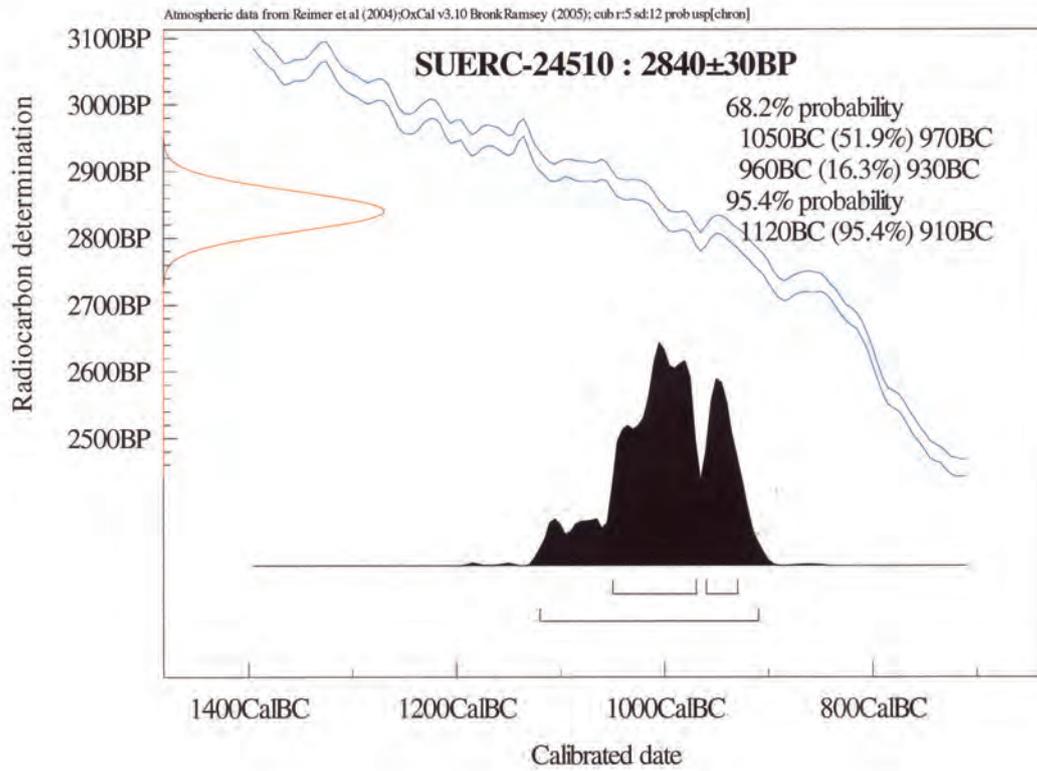


Fig 1. Rampart dating.

Calibration Plot

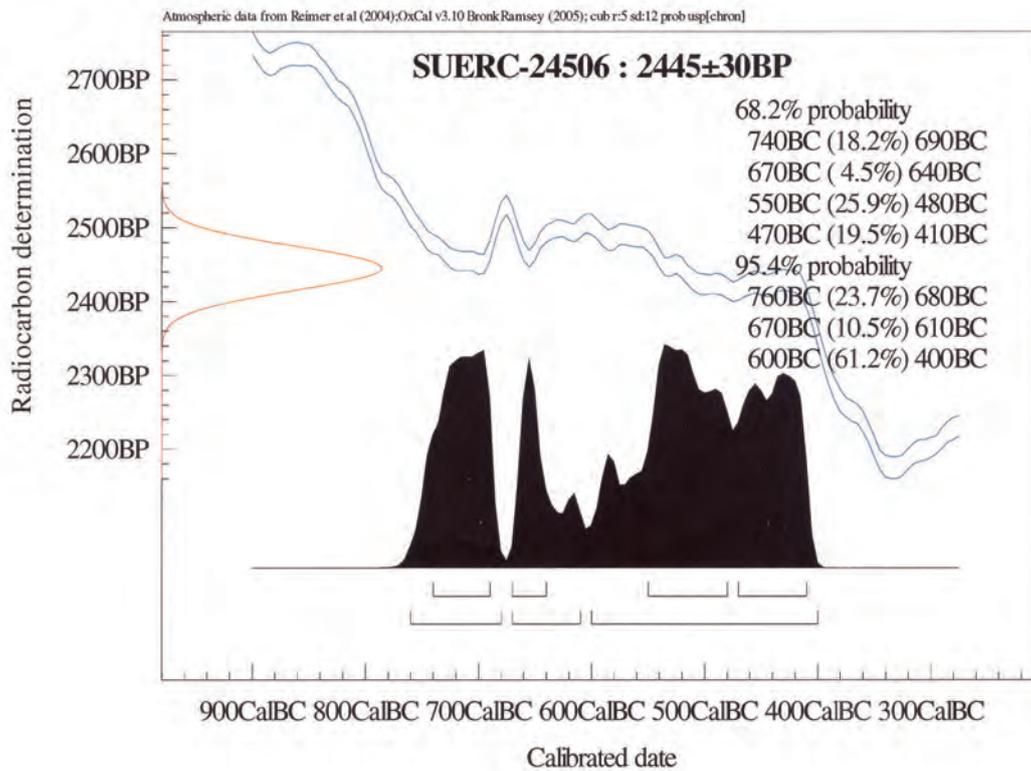


Fig 2. Transient Circle dating.

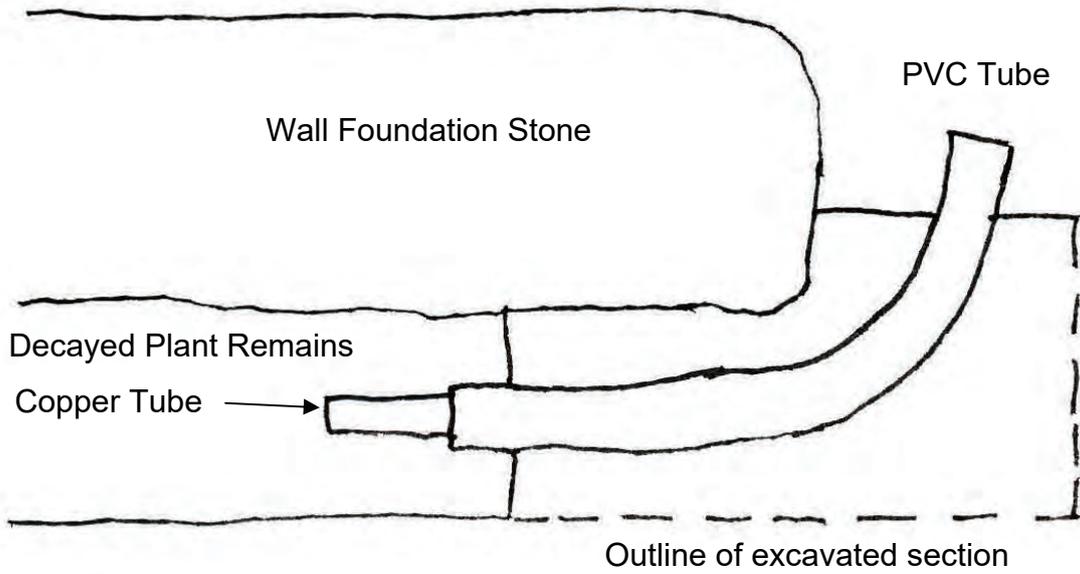


Fig 3. Vertical section of sample extraction method, not to scale. *Drawn by A Batty.*

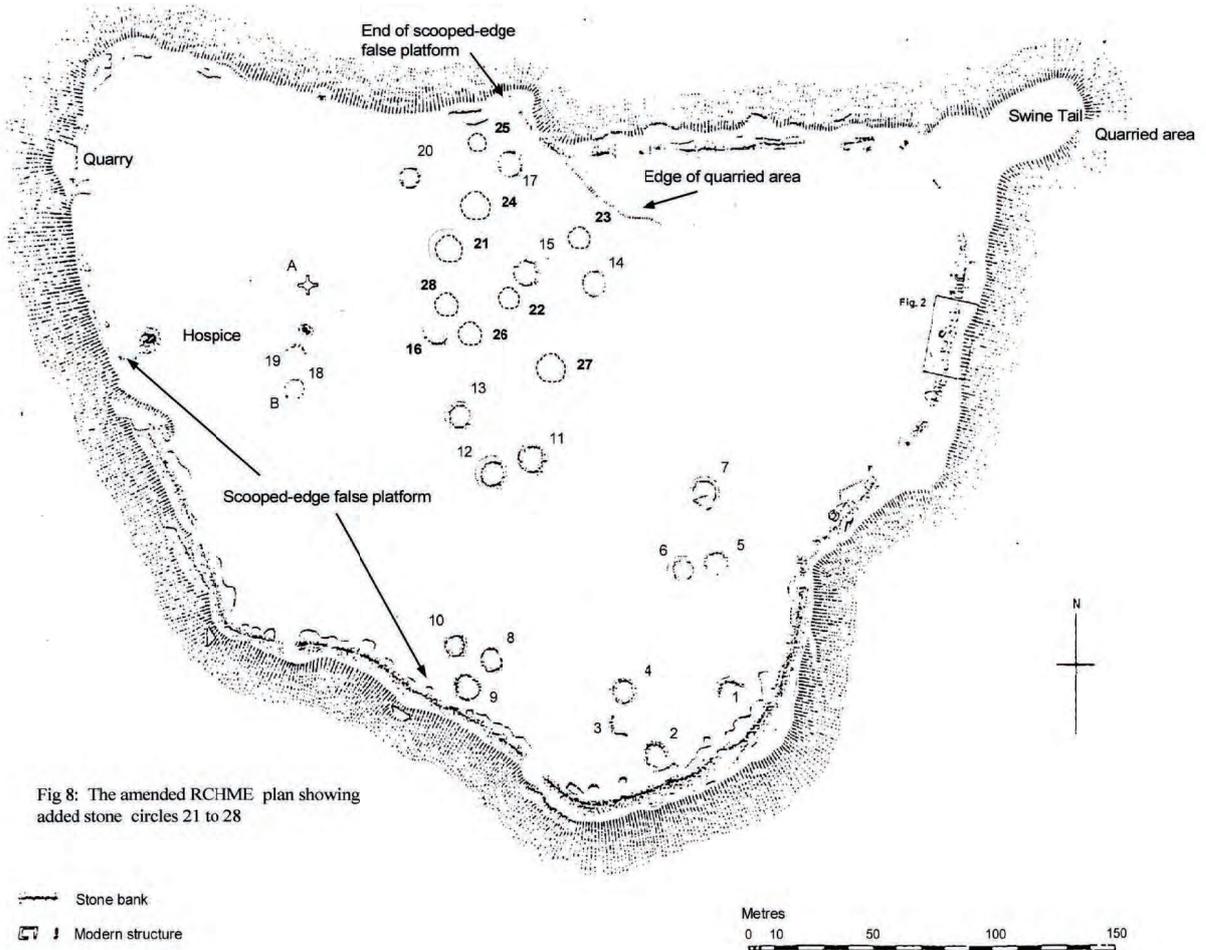


Fig 8: The amended RCHME plan showing added stone circles 21 to 28

Fig 4. Plan showing location of transient use circle 8.