



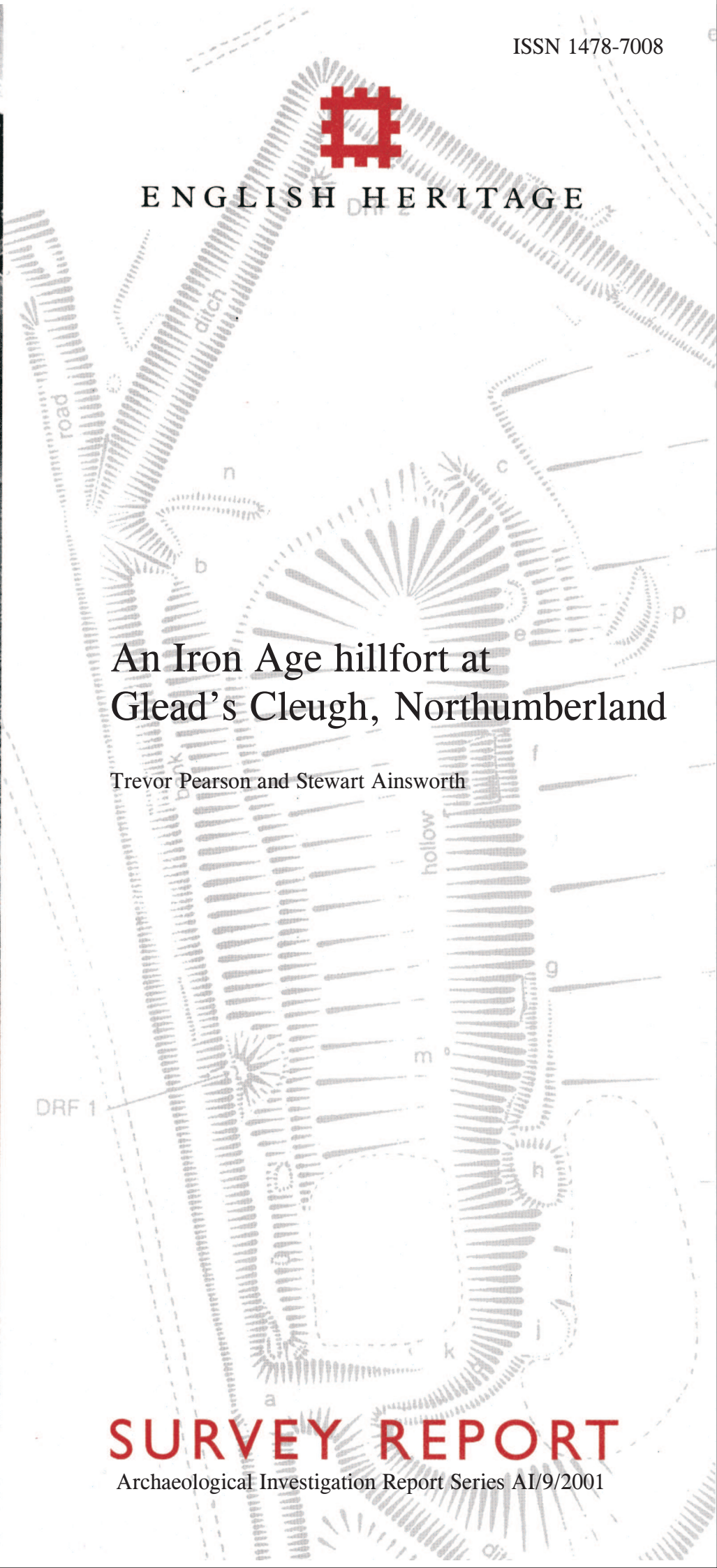
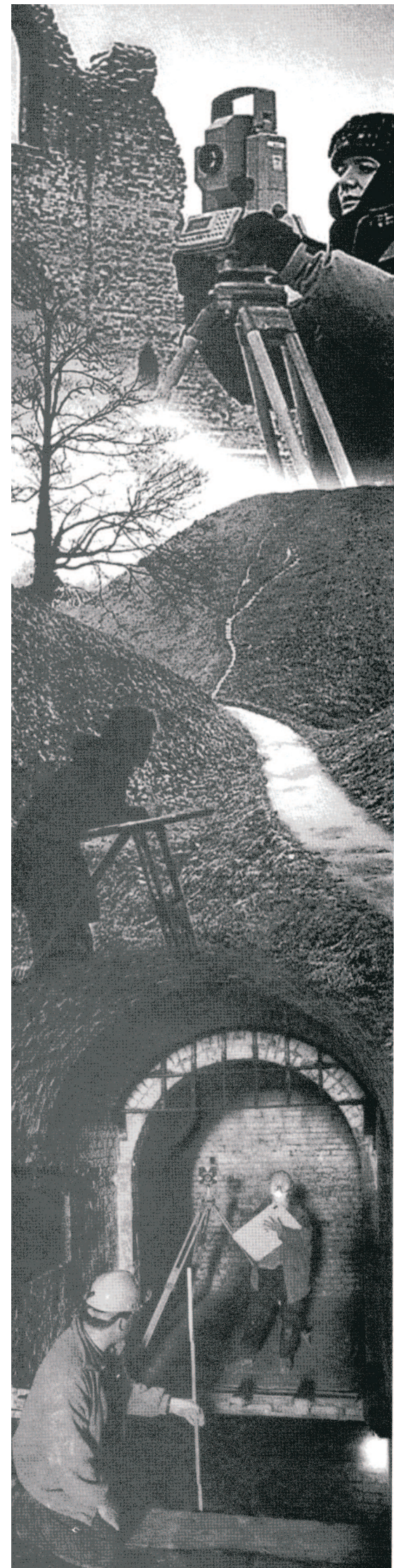
ENGLISH HERITAGE

An Iron Age hillfort at Glead's Cleugh, Northumberland

Trevor Pearson and Stewart Ainsworth

SURVEY REPORT

Archaeological Investigation Report Series AI/9/2001





**AN IRON AGE HILLFORT AT
GLEAD'S CLEUGH
NORTHUMBERLAND**

Archaeological Investigation Report Series AI/9/2001

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Surveyed by Trevor Pearson and Stewart Ainsworth

Report by Trevor Pearson

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York Office: 37 Tanner Row, York YO1 6WP

Tel: 01904 601901 *Fax:* 01904 601998

National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon. SN2 2GZ
Tel: 01793 414700 *Fax:* 01793 414707 *World Wide Web:* <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Between December 2000 and January 2001, English Heritage carried out an archaeological field investigation of the prehistoric hillfort at Glead's Cleugh in the northern Cheviots, 4kms to the west of Wooler (Figure 1). The analytical survey formed part of the Northumberland National Park Authority's project entitled 'Discovering our hillfort heritage', which is funded jointly by the European Union through the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Tweed Forum initiative, English Heritage and the Northumberland National Park Authority. Glead's Cleugh lies within the Northumberland National Park in the parish of Akeld and district of Berwick upon Tweed. The hillfort is centred on National Grid Reference NT 94885 29089. The analytical field survey was one of a number intended to improve the understanding of Iron Age hillforts and comparable enclosures within the National Park and to inform their conservation and management (Frodsham 2000).

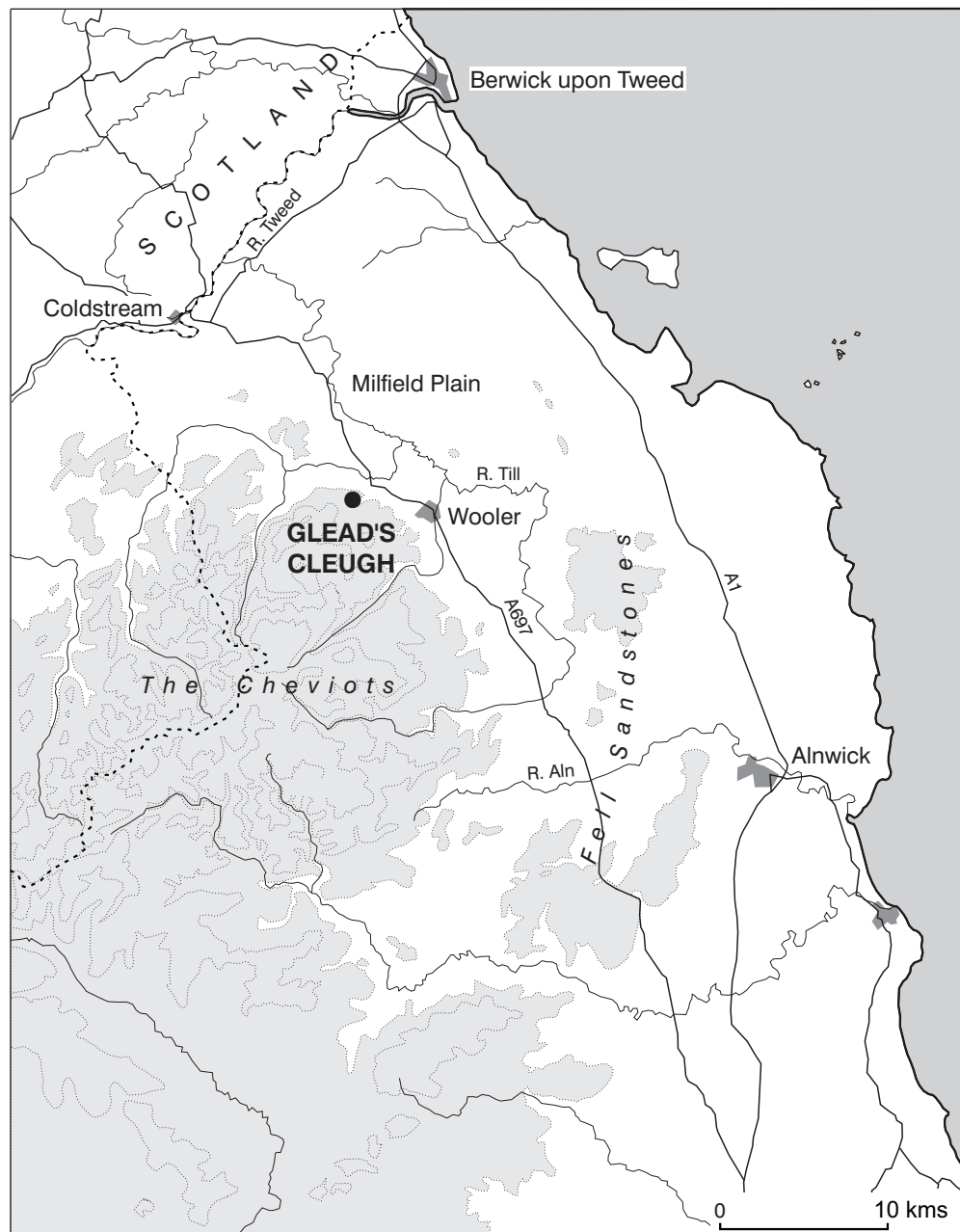


Figure 1.
Location
map

The hillfort is at an altitude of around 220m above sea level and occupies a position of great natural strength on the summit of a steep-sided promontory which overlooks the valley of the Akeld Burn to the south. There are three ramparts on the north side of the hillfort protecting the neck of the promontory but around the remainder of the perimeter, where the sides of the promontory are much steeper, there was just a single rampart although this has largely disappeared on the east side. The hillfort is evidently of two phases and appears to have begun as a univallate fortification represented by the single rampart on the crest of the promontory on the east, south and west sides, and the inner of the three ramparts on the north. In the second phase, the middle and outer ramparts were added and the inner rampart was mostly levelled. The main way into the hillfort was at the north-east angle facing towards the natural line of approach, whilst a gap through the bank at south-east of the fort is demonstrably not an original entrance, though may have been inserted in the second phase. The ramparts are of stone rubble construction although now mostly covered in grass and 14 circular scooped platforms are visible in the interior of the hillfort arranged along slight terraces which may have served as routeways. The platforms probably mark the positions of timber round houses of Iron Age date and appear to evidence at least two changes in occupation pattern within the life of the hillfort. There is the slight possibility of one being a later, Romano-British, house site, otherwise there is no evidence that the hillfort was occupied after the Iron Age.

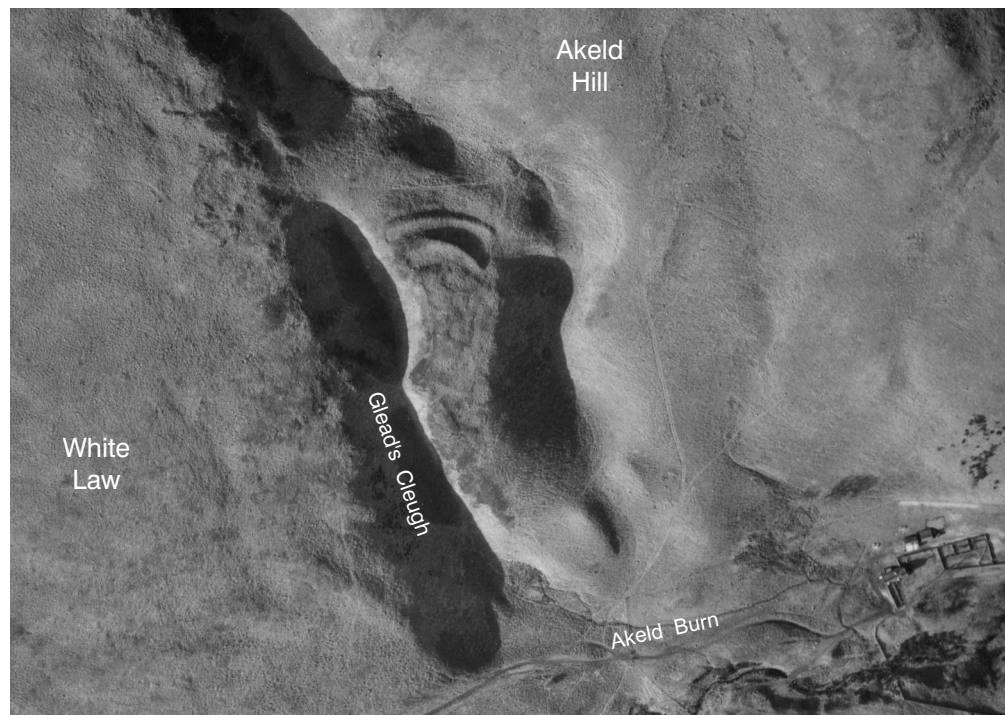
The hillfort is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument number 29308) and recorded in the National Monuments Record (NMR) as NT 92 NW 15. The survey was at 1:500 scale and extended over an area of 8.6 ha (21.2 acres), encompassing the fort and its immediate environs. The field investigation was carried out at Level 3 standard (as defined in RCHME 1999, 3-4) and evidence was found for the development of the hillfort, the character of occupation within it and the construction of the defences. No definite archaeological features were noted in the survey area beyond the confines of the hillfort.

2. GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

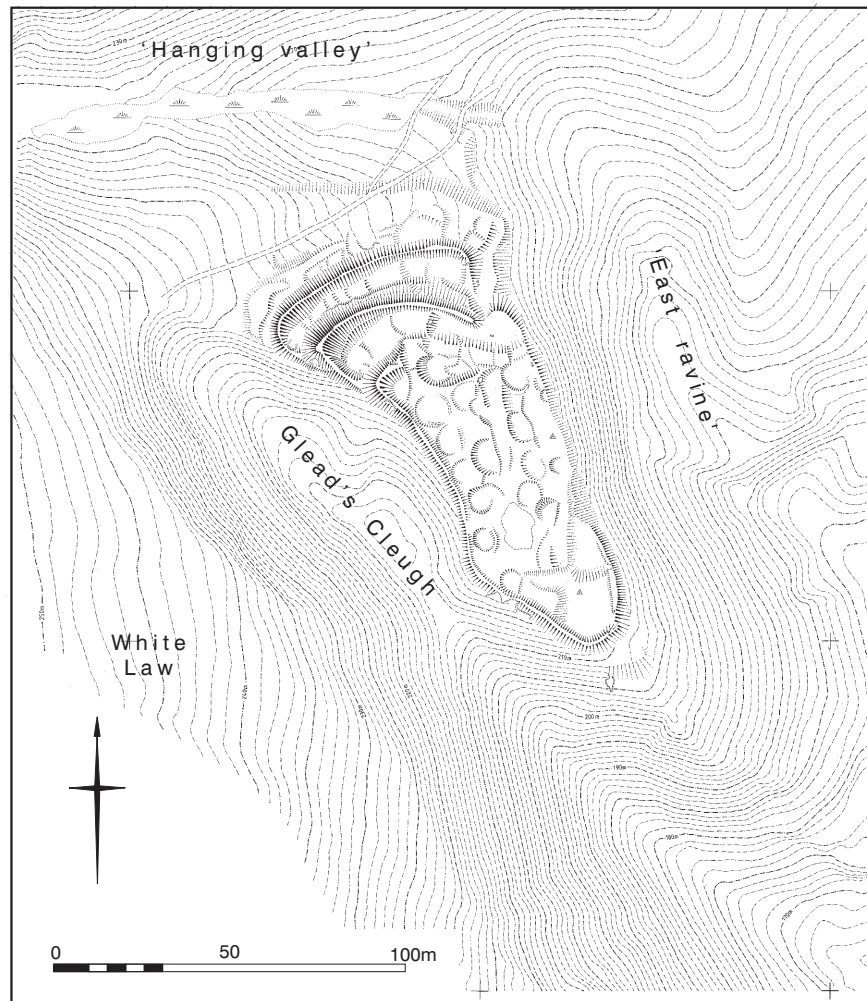
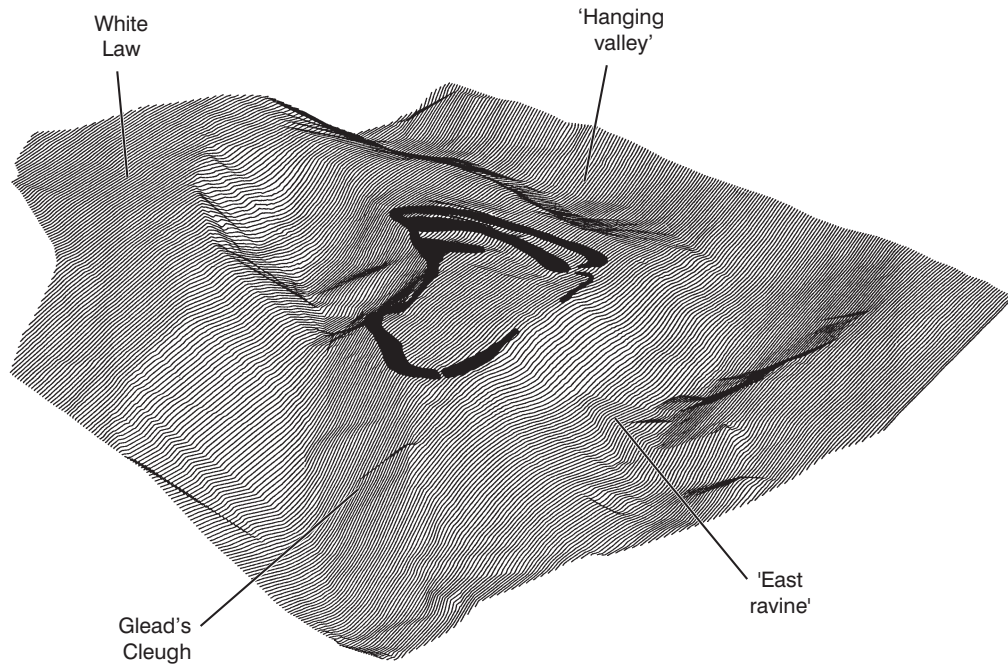
The solid geology of the area is andesite; a type of hard, volcanic rock which turns from deep pink to pale grey when weathered. There are no significant rock outcrops in the vicinity of the site, although extensive scree slopes exist on the east and west sides of the promontory and on the opposing slopes. There are hillwash deposits (colluvium) in the valley bottom whilst the promontory itself and the surrounding hills have only a thin covering of soil which supports close-cropped grass and bilberries.

The hillfort encloses the roughly triangular-shaped summit of the promontory, which tapers from north-west to south-east, the south-east end dropping steeply down to the floor of the Akeld Burn valley (Figures 2 and 3). The summit of the promontory slopes from west to east by as much as 12m whilst a natural shelf at the south end of the summit is the only substantial piece of level ground within the hillfort. The precipitous east and west sides of the promontory are formed by two ravines cutting into the north side of the Akeld Burn valley; that on the west, called Glead's Cleugh, is the deeper of the two and separates the promontory from the higher summit of White Law. On the north-west there is only a slight fall from the summit of the promontory before the ground soon rises again around the head of Glead's Cleugh to merge with the side of White Law. To the north-east a 'hanging valley' connecting with the head of the east ravine separates the promontory from the higher slope up to the summit of Akeld Hill. This valley is shallow on the north-east where there is an easy ascent onto the summit of the promontory but it deepens westwards and continues on as a narrow ravine between Akeld Hill and White Law, creating a possible route from the Akeld Burn valley into Glendale. There is an extensive area of marsh on the valley floor, which drains eastwards into the head of the east ravine.

The hillfort has open views to the south over the flat-bottomed valley of the Akeld Burn although a shoulder of the promontory immediately below the south side of the hillfort hides the valley bottom from all but the south rampart. The valley itself runs for a further 2.5kms (1.5 miles) south-eastwards from the hillfort promontory but



*Figure 2.
Aerial
photograph
of the site
(Gates 1980)*



*Figure 3.
The topographic
setting of the hillfort.
Digital terrain model
of the hillfort viewed
from the south-east
(above) and survey
plan with contours at
1m intervals (reduced
from 1:500 scale
original)*

hardly penetrates the central mass of the Cheviot Hills and therefore can have had little importance as a routeway. Looking east from the hillfort, there is a view along the line of the valley for 1.2kms (0.8 miles) to the point where it opens out into the Milfield Plain, and beyond there are distant views over the plain to the Fell Sandstone hills. In contrast, to the west and north the views are far more restricted. Some 70m to the west, the hillfort is overlooked by the opposite side of Glead's Cleugh which rises steeply towards the summit of White Law, whilst northwards the view from the hillfort extends for 200m as far as the side of Akeld Hill.

No other hillforts are clearly visible from the promontory (Figure 4) although that at Monday Cleugh is less than 1km to the south-east on the opposite side of the Akeld Valley, whilst Yeavinger Bell, the largest hillfort in the Cheviots, is 2kms to the west and hidden from view by the intervening summit of White Law. Around 200m to the east of the hillfort are the tumbled remains of several small rectangular buildings and associated paddocks with three or four cultivation terraces stretching westwards back towards the east ravine. These remains are all probably contemporary and of medieval or post-medieval date but the decision was taken not to extend the survey area eastwards to include them as they have no obvious association with the hillfort.

The survey area is used as rough grazing and there is no public access. A farm track crosses the saddle below the north side of the hillfort and ascends the slope up to the summit of White Law, skirting around the head of Glead's Cleugh. The nearest modern habitation is the farm of Gleadscleugh (*sic*) in the valley bottom about 250m south-east of the hillfort.

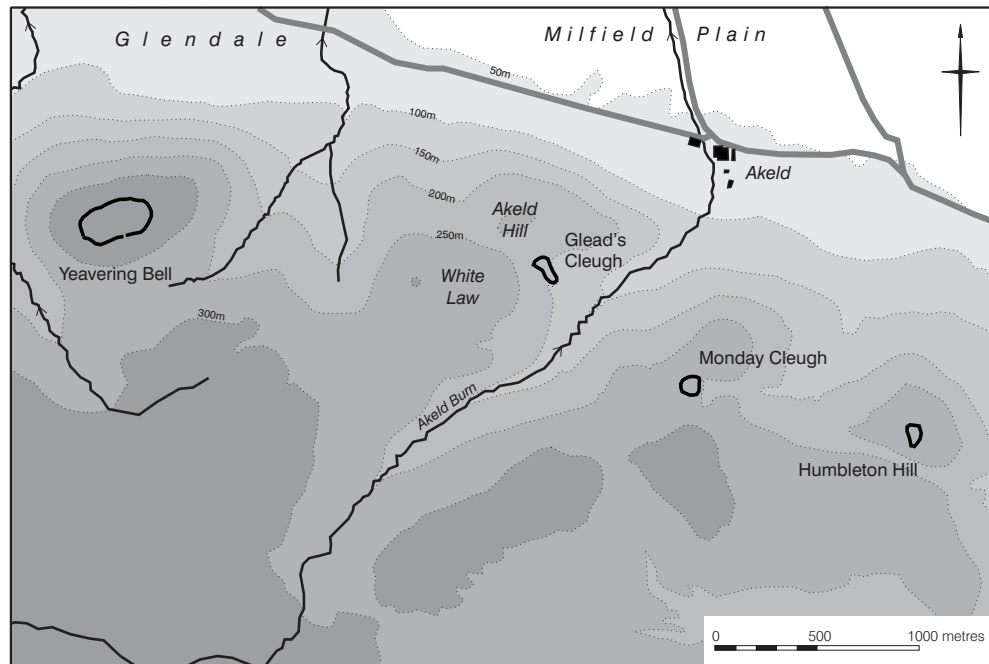


Figure 4.
The environs of
the site showing
neighbouring
hillforts

3. HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The earliest known description of the hillfort at Glead's Cleugh is by the Victorian surveyor and field archaeologist, Henry MacLauchlan, whose account was published in 1867 (MacLauchlan 1867, 21-2). He appears to have visited during August 1858 which is the date on his surviving sketch plan (Figure 5). In his written account, he estimated the area of the fort at 3 roods and 30 poles (0.93 acres or 0.37 ha) and describes three ramparts cutting off the promontory and an entrance on the north-east 'near the stream from the spring'. This reference to a stream suggests the surface water creating the marsh in the 'hanging valley' north-east of the promontory was then more free-flowing. He states that the south-west angle of the fort commands a view over the camp and that this vantage point 'appears to have been divided from the rest of the camp by a low rampart'. The English Heritage survey found no evidence of a 'low rampart' dividing the south-west angle from the rest of the interior nor is one depicted on his sketch plan. There is clearly an error in MacLauchlan's description because it is the north-west angle of the fort which commands the interior making the 'low rampart' the truncated inner bank of the three lines of defences on the north of the hillfort which is shown on the sketch plan.

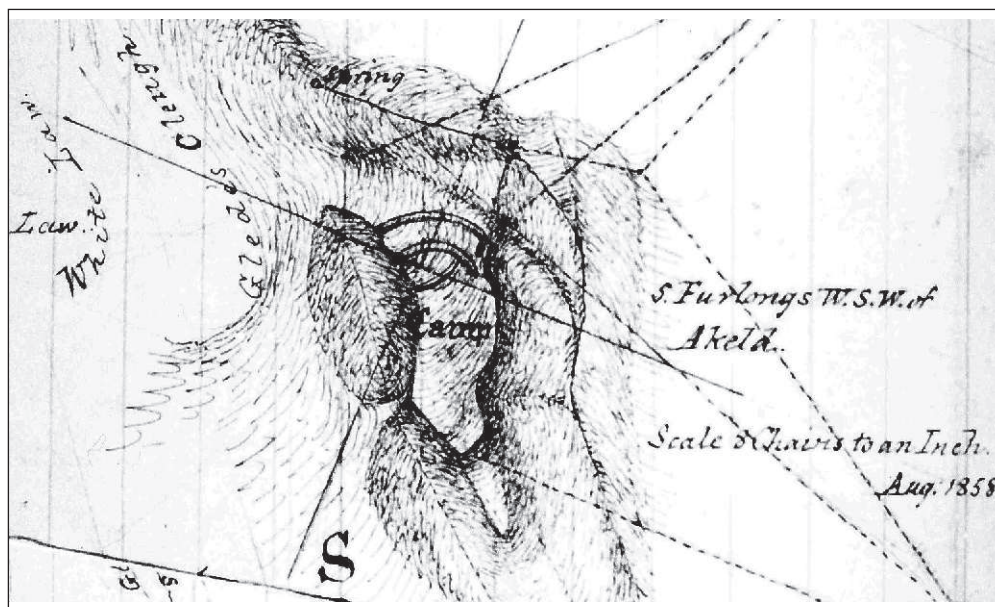


Figure 5.
MacLauchlan's
survey of 1858
(reproduced by
kind permission of
His Grace the Duke
of Northumberland)

The plan itself adds little to MacLauchlan's written account. He shows the middle and outer ramparts fairly accurately but wrongly depicts the inner rampart curving sharply northwards to join the rear of the middle rampart. Clearly he mistook the eastern, and most prominent, of a series of steps in the bottom of the inner rampart ditch for the actual rampart. In fact the inner rampart clearly curves southwards, although almost levelled flat. MacLauchlan appears to show a single continuous rampart around the remainder of the promontory despite the fact that, as the field survey has demonstrated, the breach on the south side and the large break on the east were definitely then in existence. MacLauchlan speculates that the hillfort is not as ancient as the neighbouring sites of Yeavinger Bell and Humbleton Hill because 'their construction is different'. He does not elaborate on this observation so it is difficult to be sure as to precisely what he meant. Presumably he was struck by the contrast between the stone ramparts at Yeavinger Bell and Humbleton Hill and the turf-covered defences at Glead's Cleugh. This is too simplistic a use of the field evidence and ignores the fact that, although not particularly visible on the surface, stone was extensively used in the construction of the ramparts at Glead's Cleugh.

Although the first two editions of the Ordnance survey 1:2500 scale map (surveyed in 1860 and revised in 1896) label the ravine of Glead's Cleugh, they both omit to depict the hillfort (Ordnance Survey 1864 and 1897). The first modern description of the site is by Eric Geary of the Ordnance Survey who was the first of three Ordnance survey investigators to visit the site between 1955 and 1976. Geary observed that the ramparts were constructed of earth and stone and agreed with MacLauchlan that the entrance was on the north-east, noting that it was defined by the natural slope on one side and by the ends of the outer and middle ramparts on the other linked by a bank (NMR No. NT 92 NW 15 – Authority 3). He was tentative about the existence of houses in the interior, commenting that there were no certain traces, although he noted several circular depressions. In 1969, the second Ordnance Survey investigator, Dick Emsley, was more positive about the survival of house sites in the interior, identifying the remains of two probable scooped platforms and several more that he considered possible (NMR No. NT 92 NW 15 – Authority 5). In 1976 Duncan Lowry, the third investigator from the Ordnance Survey to visit the site, commented on the possibility of an entrance on the south side of the hillfort but could not find any trace of the perimeter defences on the east side (NMR No. NT 92 NW 15 – Authority 6).

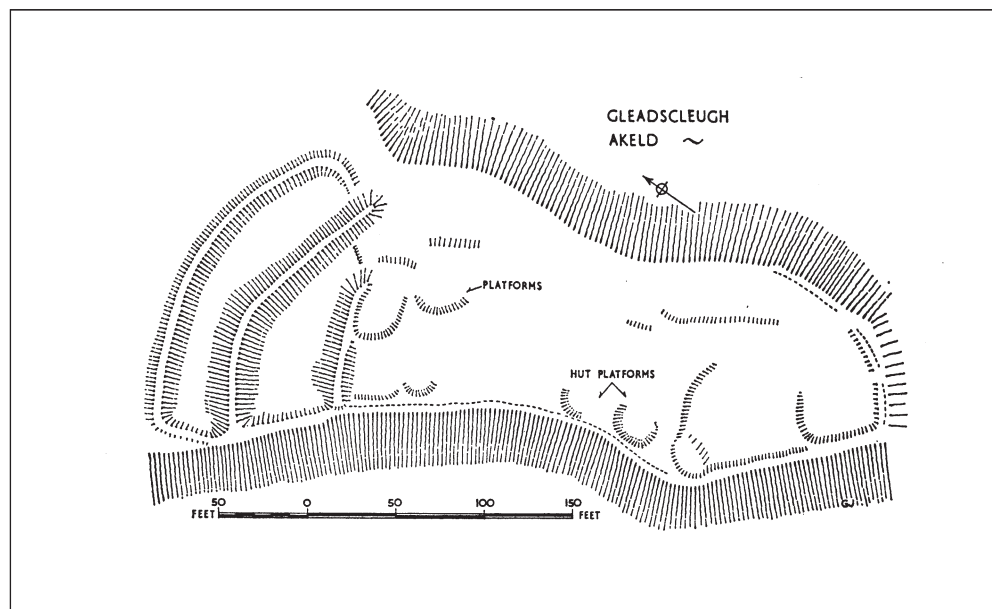


Figure 6.
Plan of the
hillfort by George
Jobey (Jobey
1965, 31)

In 1965 George Jobey published a plan and brief description of Glead's Cleugh in his overview of hillforts and settlements in Northumberland (Jobey 1965, 29 and Figure 6). The plan shows the incomplete perimeter on the east side of the hillfort, the possible entrance on the south side and the multivallation on the north (Figure 6). The north-east entrance is clearly shown, as is the transverse bank on its west side referred to by Geary. Within the hillfort, Jobey labels four semi-circular scoops as house platforms and shows other scarpes without indicating whether he thought they were natural or artificial. He describes the platforms as 'scooped' in the accompanying text but mentions nothing further about the hillfort.

The English Heritage survey carried out in 2001, and the subject of this report, is the most thorough and extensive survey of the hillfort and its environs up to that date. It is the first to find convincing evidence of settlement extending over virtually the entire interior of the hillfort and to identify phasing in the development of the defences. The documentary research undertaken as part of the survey was limited to a review of the secondary sources and readily available primary sources.

4. DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION (Figures 7-10)

4.1 Summary

The hillfort measures a maximum of 95m x 35m internally and encloses an area of 0.3ha (0.74 acres), with its long axis aligned north-west to south-east following the orientation of the promontory. There are three ramparts on the north side of the hillfort (the inner one of which is partially levelled) with intermediate ditches cut down to bedrock. They protect the weakest side of the promontory whilst the slight remains of a ditch and bank beyond the outermost of these ramparts may represent a further line of defences. There is a single rampart around the remainder of the hillfort although all but 25m of this has disappeared on the east side. The main entrance is at the north-east angle facing towards the most level route onto the summit around the head of the east ravine, whilst a second gap in the rampart at the south-east angle is a later breach, although probably Iron Age in date.

The interior of the hillfort contains the remains of 14 sub-circular platforms cut into the natural slope. These probably define the sites of timber round houses although only one example of a ring-groove was noted which might indicate the actual perimeter of a timber building. The house platforms appear to fall into west and east groups arranged along the contours and separated by a pronounced terrace. This, and several lesser terraces, may have served as routeways across the interior of the hillfort. The only other Iron Age features noted in the interior were several quarry hollows on the east side whilst to the south, the absence of any visible structures in the area of the level shelf suggests it was left unoccupied, perhaps for use as an animal pen.

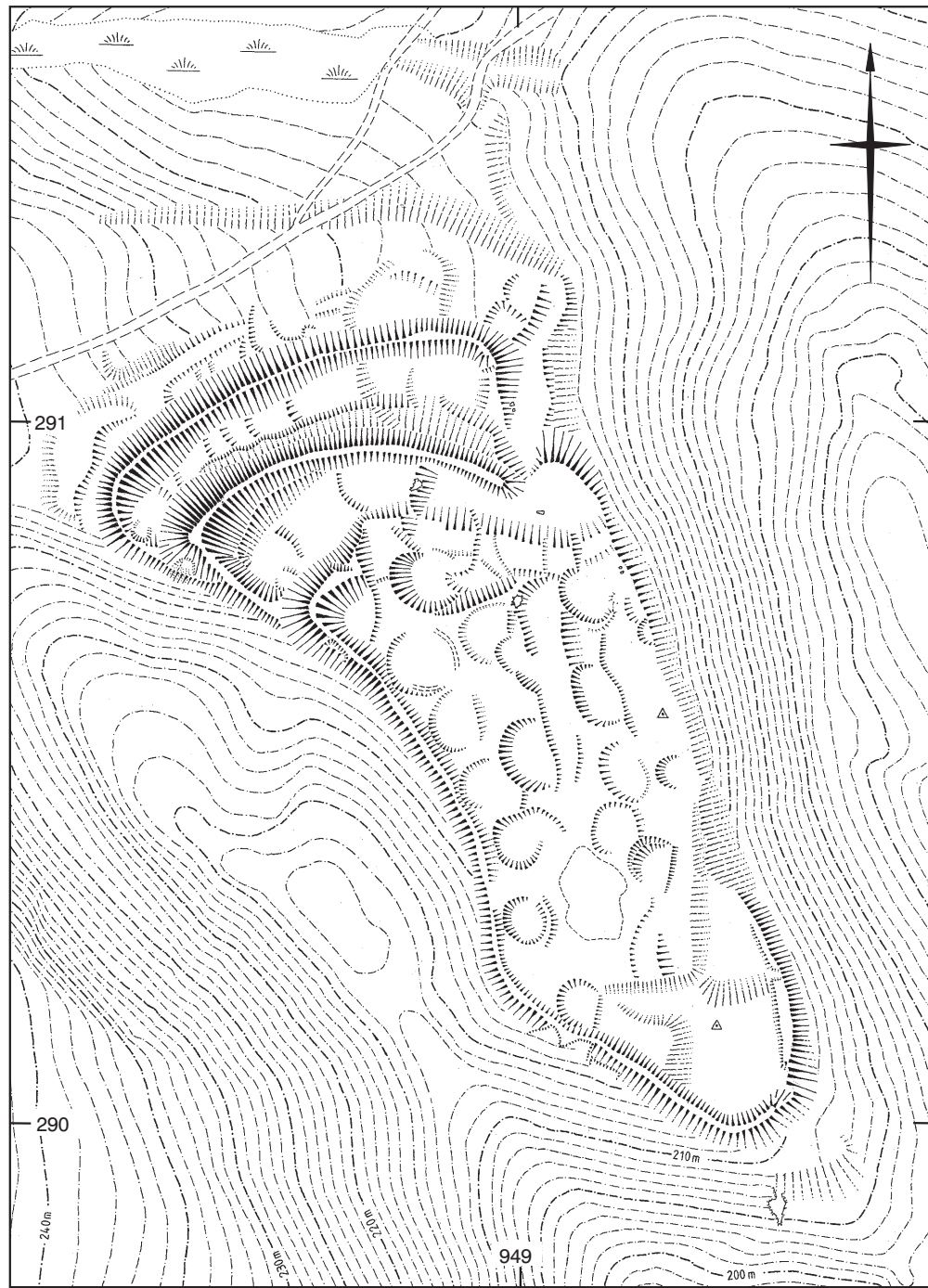
The site has not been dated by excavation, but the form of its defences and topographic setting places it firmly in the Iron Age. It appears to be almost exclusively of this period as there is no evidence of a Bronze Age precursor as has been found at some hillforts in the Borders (Jobey 1965, 23; Burgess 1984, 142). Nor is there any compelling evidence for use after the Iron Age unlike at several neighbouring sites recently surveyed (Oswald *et al.* 2000; Pearson *et al.* 2001), although one of the house sites might be Romano-British in date. There is the strong possibility that the hillfort began as a univallate enclosure (Phase 1) defined by the rampart which runs along the crest of the promontory, and the inner rampart which cuts off the promontory on the north side. The existing middle and outer ramparts appear to have been added in a second phase, during which most of the Phase 1 rampart on the north side was levelled. A minimal ditch and bank immediately outside the outer rampart is most likely to be an unfinished counterscarp bank belonging to the Phase 2 defences. However, there is also the slight possibility that it could be contemporary with, or even pre-date, the Phase 1 hillfort. At least two phases of occupation took place within the hillfort as is demonstrated by the way several house platforms cut across their neighbours, but all 14 are of a type widely accepted as being Iron Age in the Cheviots (Jobey 1965, Figure 8). No evidence was found for any Romano-British stone-built round houses, although the one platform with an associated yard bears some comparison to the Romano-British house sites recently recorded on Castle Hill, Alnham, 18kms (11miles) to the south. A breach through the rampart on the south side of the hillfort was probably created during the Iron Age, whilst evidence for later activity is limited to two shallow, scooped shelters in the lee of the rampart on the north-west side of the hillfort.

4.2 Phase 1 hillfort

The field evidence indicates that the hillfort began as a univallate enclosure defined by the inner of the three ramparts on the north and by the single surviving rampart on the west, south and east sides, enclosing an area of 0.25ha (0.61 acres). The north-east corner of the hillfort, and the 50m length of rampart presumed to have stretched back from it along the east side of the promontory, have eroded away. At the north-west angle, there is no evidence of any discontinuity between the single rampart on the west and the inner rampart on the north side, establishing that the inner rampart is likely to be contemporary with the single rampart around the other three sides of the promontory. That this represents the original defensive perimeter and that the middle and outer ramparts were added in a second phase is evident from the relationship between the levelled rampart and other features. The levelled section is partly overlain by the sites of two round houses (Structures 1 and 14) and is also scarred by several slight tracks, all probably of Iron Age date and which therefore demonstrate that the levelling took place during this period. The most likely explanation for the levelling of the inner rampart was that it was replaced by the construction of the middle and outer defences. Further support for this sequence is that the outer and middle ramparts overlie a possible quarry hollow from the construction of the inner rampart and the middle rampart clearly cuts across the end of the levelled inner rampart on the east crest of the promontory. Both of these earthwork relationships will be described in more detail below.

The surviving remains indicate that in the first phase the strongest defences were on the north, with a rampart, ditch and possible counterscarp bank cutting across the neck of the promontory. Most of this rampart was levelled in Phase 2, but the 10m stretch retained on the west is 1.8m high whilst the levelled section to the east is visible as a low rise around 0.1m high on the inside and 0.3m on the outside where it incorporates the side of the external ditch. The ditch is shallow and all that can be clearly seen are a series of rock-cut steps presumably where slightly harder bands of rock were encountered. A slight hollowing of the bottom of the ditch eastwards from the foot of the easternmost rock-cut step may be wear from the use of this section of ditch as a routeway, as will be discussed below. The outer edge of the ditch is not clear, perhaps because it is overlain by the Phase 2 middle rampart which follows broadly the same alignment as the Phase 1 inner rampart. This could indicate that the middle rampart began as a much smaller counterscarp bank aligned along the outer edge of the Phase 1 ditch. It is likely that the ditch provided material for the construction of the adjacent rampart and therefore that they are contemporary.

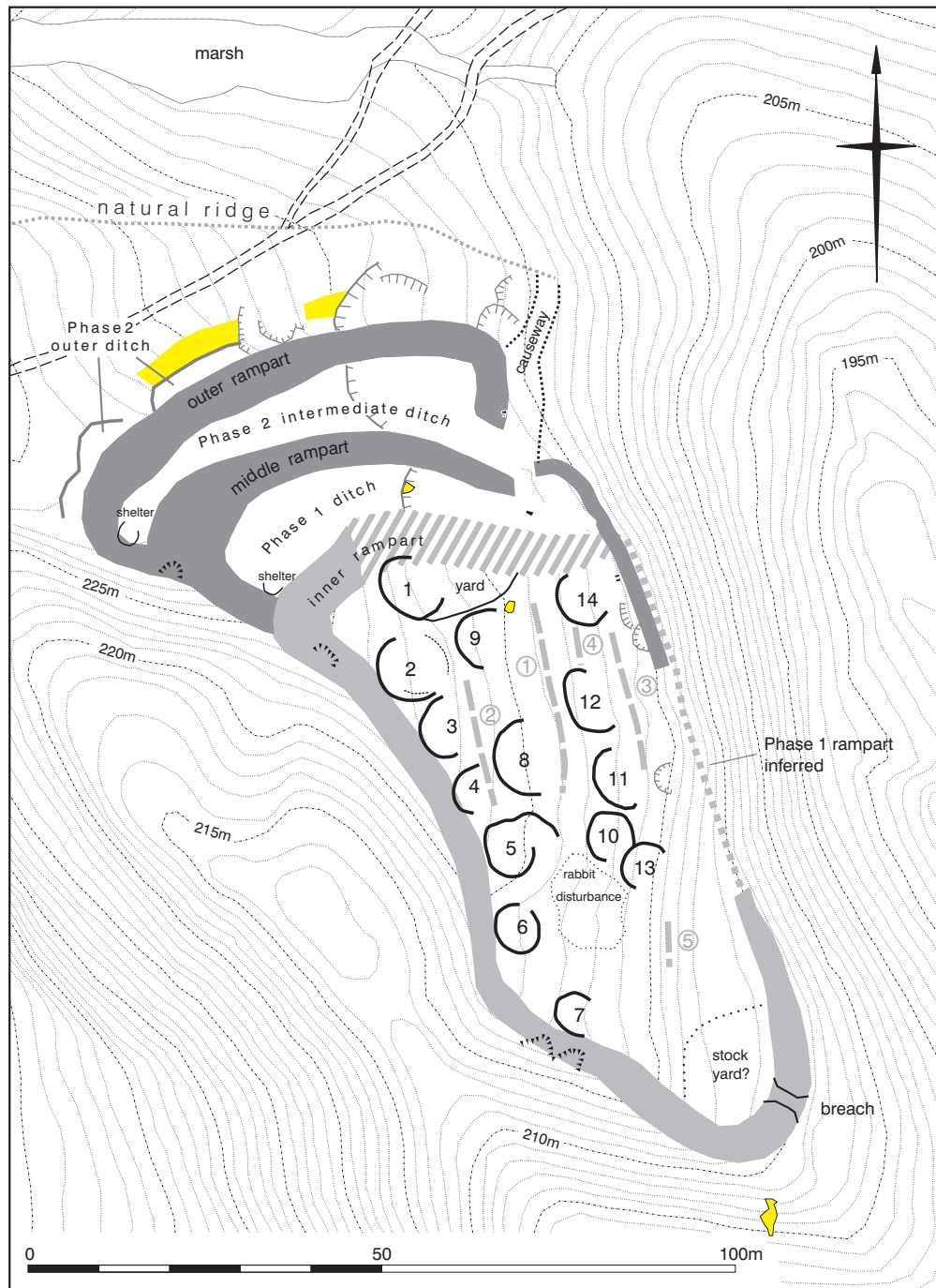
On the west side of the Phase 1 hillfort, the rampart consists of a bank no more than 1.0m high, which nevertheless gains immense strength by straddling the crest of the precipitous slope overlooking Glead's Cleugh. The crest of this slope appears to have been cut back slightly to accentuate the steepness of the external face of the rampart. As the rampart turns to the east to overlook the less precipitous south side of the promontory, it increases in height to 1.4m to compensate for the reduction in the natural strength of the slope below. The surviving section of rampart on the east is no more than 0.3m high and straddles the crest of the precipitous slope on the east side of the promontory. The outer face again has been accentuated by cutting back the slope, as is clearly seen by the way the outer face continues for a further 5m northwards beyond the point the overlying bank disappears. For the remaining 50m of the east side of the hillfort, the only indication of the former existence of the rampart are three quarry hollows close to the east edge of the promontory which most probably provided some of the material for the bank. The two most northerly of these are right



0 50 100m

- |||| scarp
- ||||| natural scarp
- ⊗ natural rock outcrop
- - - track
- △ permanent survey marker
- ⌞ marsh

Figure 7. English Heritage plan of the hillfort (reduced from 1:500 scale original)













- | | |
|---|---|
|  Phase 1 rampart |  Quarry |
|  Phase 1 levelled rampart |  Rock outcrop |
|  Phase 2 rampart |  Large stone |
|  Phase 2 counterscarp bank |  Terraced routeway |
|  Erosion |  House platform |

Figure 8. Interpretative plan of the hillfort

on the edge of the promontory suggesting the bank must have been aligned at least 1m out beyond the existing crest.

The Phase 1 bank appears to be of a simple dump construction consisting mainly of angular fist-sized stones in a soil matrix, judging from the several places where erosion scars have exposed the core of the bank on the west side of the hillfort. Most of these stones could have come from scree slopes and from upcast from digging the ditch outside the north rampart, explaining the limited evidence for stone quarrying around the hillfort. There are few larger blocks of stone evident in the make up of the bank, suggesting it is unlikely to have been revetted with internal and external wall faces as at the neighbouring hillforts of Humbleton Hill and Yeavinger Bell (RCHME 1997 and 1998). However it is conceivable that the outer face of the bank was revetted on the east and west sides to counteract slippage down the precipitous slopes but that erosion has removed any evidence. It is probable also that a timber palisade surmounted the bank, although there is no surviving field evidence for this.

The lack of evidence for large-scale quarrying associated with the Phase 1 hillfort has already been referred to. One possible quarry still to consider is a large semi-circular hollow to the north, overlain by the outer, and possibly the middle, ramparts. The hollow is defined by a crescentic, east facing scarp up to 0.6m high which begins 10m to the north of the outer rampart and appears to end at the foot of the middle rampart. It may emerge on the opposite side as a distinct step in the base of the inner rampart ditch, in which case it underlies the middle rampart as well. It may be natural in origin but the steepness of the edge suggests, at the very least, that it has been accentuated by quarrying. If the interpretation is correct that this feature supplied stone for the construction of the inner rampart, then the fact that it is overlain by the outer rampart, and possibly the middle rampart, is evidence of sequence: it would confirm that the inner rampart is earlier than the middle and outer ramparts.

There are no surviving traces of an entrance from the north into the Phase 1 hillfort but one should be anticipated given that this is the easiest way onto the summit of the promontory. It is conceivable that the entrance was on the north-east, approximately in line with the better attested Phase 2 hillfort entrance, facing towards the easiest line of approach onto the promontory. The erosion of the adjacent slope and the cutting of a scarp along the crest linking back to the Phase 2 middle rampart would have led to its destruction. The truncated section of the Phase 1 north rampart does appear to turn slightly from east to north-east close to the east edge of the promontory possibly to flank an oblique entrance passageway. Alternatively, the wear evident in the bottom of the ditch at the foot of this rampart suggests there could have been an approach route along the eastern half of the ditch to an entrance about halfway along the rampart. However, it is possible that this route is later and connected with the entrance arrangements of the Phase 2 hillfort (as will be discussed below). As a final possibility, the end of the upstanding part of the Phase 1 north rampart may define the approximate west side of the entrance with an approach route defined by a causeway crossing a slight ditch, 40m to the north-west. The ditch is immediately outside the Phase 2 outer rampart but might be part of an earlier cross-ridge dyke associated with the Phase 1 hillfort. However, this is not the only interpretation of this ditch which, because of its proximity to the outer rampart, is more likely to belong to the Phase 2 defences, as will be discussed below.

There is a second probable entrance at the south apex of the hillfort represented by a 3m wide gap in the bank. The sides of the bank have been rounded off to make the entrance but it is clearly a later breach as the base of the rampart continues across the

gap as a very slight outward-facing scarp. Significantly, the entrance opens into a level area thought likely to have been used as a livestock pen (see below) and the breach could have been made to give the animals a direct route down the slope to the Akeld Burn. Although not an original part of the Phase 1 hillfort, the entrance is most likely to have been made in the Iron Age (possibly during Phase 2) since there is no evidence that the hillfort was used for coralling livestock at later periods.

4.3 Phase 2 hillfort

It was determined above that the existing middle and outer ramparts on the north side of the hillfort were added in a second phase, increasing the area within the hillfort to 0.3ha (0.74 acres). The decision to do away with the Phase 1 rampart on this side may have arisen because of concerns over its stability since the north-east corner appears to have been lost, (probably through slippage), prior to Phase 2. That the danger of slippage on the east side was a real concern may explain why no substantial fortifications were constructed at the north-east angle and along the east side of the hillfort in Phase 2. However, to have demolished virtually the entire Phase 1 north rampart because of these fears would seem excessive and is therefore unlikely to be the sole explanation. Only two house platforms (Structures 1 and 14) impinge upon the truncated rampart suggesting the need for more occupation space was not a major factor in the decision to remove the rampart. It may be that the rampart was levelled to provide extra space for coralling livestock within the hillfort, but no evidence to substantiate this was noted. Probably much more likely is that it was levelled in order to open up access from the north-east entrance onto the terraced routeways where most of the round houses were situated.

The west end of the Phase 1 north rampart was left intact and incorporated into the Phase 2 defences as a short inner rampart, with the new middle rampart curving back along the crest of the slope above Glead's Cleugh to meet it. Similarly, the outer rampart curves southwards along the crest of the slope above Glead's Cleugh to secure the gap between it and the middle rampart. This is the only point where the two Phase 2 ramparts meet and the earthwork stratigraphy is not sufficiently clear at the junction to establish their relative sequence of construction. The outer could be later and represent a third phase in the enlargement of the hillfort, although evidence to be discussed below suggests they are more likely to be contemporary. The middle and outer ramparts have a slight outwards curve as they descend the 10m slope towards the east side of the promontory, the middle strikingly similar to the curve of the inner rampart which, as was mentioned above, could indicate it began as a Phase 1 counterscarp bank. A slight ditch separates the middle and outer ramparts widening from around 3m on the west to nearer 10m on the east. The ditch ends on the east to leave open the approach to the entrance through the middle rampart and to allow room for the southwards turn of the outer rampart to flank this approach. The planning evident in this layout strongly suggests the middle and outer ramparts and the intermediate ditch were laid out at the same time. The middle rampart on the east side of the entrance is much reduced in height and curves south to run along the crest of the promontory, thus running part of the way along the east side of the Phase 1 hillfort.

A striking feature of the layout of the Phase 2 hillfort is that the middle and outer ramparts are highest around 10m back from the west side of the promontory where the ground starts to level off. There is no particular defensive reason why the two ramparts should be highest at this point. The explanation is probably that by siting the highest part of both ramparts over this break of slope, anyone approaching the hillfort



*Figure 9.
View of the site
from the
north-east*

from the north-east is confronted by the silhouettes of the highest sections of both defences. This, rather than security, may also explain why the west part of the Phase 1 north rampart was retained, since it makes a third prominent silhouette when viewed from the north-east (Figure 9). Crucially, the planning to achieve this particular effect strongly suggests that the construction of the middle and outer ramparts and the transformation of the inner rampart occurred as a single event.

Immediately to the north-west of the present outer rampart are slight traces of a ditch, which begins at the crest of the slope overlooking Glead's Cleugh and continues eastwards for around 40m. There is a 5m wide break about half way along the ditch which probably indicates it is unfinished although the end of the ditch on the east side of this gap does look to have been deliberately rounded suggesting the break was left on purpose as a causeway. There is also a slight bank on the outside of the ditch, although a natural ridge forms most of the rise and the remains are too slight to detect if the possible causeway crossed the line of the bank. The fact that the bank and ditch are cut by a slight quarry scoop on the east, most probably from the construction of the adjacent outer rampart, establishes that they are earlier than the rampart but by how long is difficult to determine. They closely follow the alignment of the outer rampart suggesting they are most likely to be the remains of an unfinished outer ditch and counterscarp bank belonging to the Phase 2 hillfort. They evidently must have been aborted as the construction of the outer rampart proceeded. In this case the causeway feature represents nothing more than the point at which work on the ditch ceased. However, an alternative possibility raised earlier in the report is that the bank and ditch are the remains of a cross-ridge dyke associated with the Phase 1 hillfort with the causeway defining the line of an approach to the fort's north entrance. Furthermore, a short stretch of bank survives further east on the same alignment where it appears to be cut by the possible Phase 1 quarry hollow, a relationship which logically dates the outwork earlier even than the Phase 1 hillfort. However this relationship is by no means secure and the Phase 1 quarry hollow is itself not a

definite feature. In conclusion, it is safest to interpret the bank and ditch as part of the Phase 2 defences, although unfinished.

The outer rampart is aligned slightly further down the north face of the promontory than the middle rampart, consequently both ramparts are clearly visible when approaching the north side of the hillfort. The outer rampart is formed by a raised bank and attains its maximum height of 1.4m high where it straddles the break of slope close to the west edge of the promontory. The rampart declines to 1.0m westwards as it turns to run along the crest of the slope above Glead's Cleugh and to around 0.5m eastwards as it turns to flank the west side of the terraced causeway approaching the entrance through the middle rampart. The opposite side of the causeway is defined by the east side of the promontory, which appears to have been cut back slightly to more clearly express the line of the route and was perhaps surmounted by a timber palisade. The terrace can be traced for a further 10m north-east heading away from the hillfort towards the head of the east ravine indicating this was the main direction of approach to the fort.

The entrance associated with Phase 2 is towards the east end of the middle rampart. It is around 2m wide and the sides are offset, the west side being around 3m further south than the east creating a slightly oblique entry. The west side of the entrance is clearly defined by the rounded terminal of the rampart bank which stands to a height of around 0.8m. The rampart on the east side is less strong, consisting of a 0.3m high outward-facing scarp cut out of the natural slope with no evidence of there ever having been a bank on top. The route from here into the hillfort appears to have split in two. One arm could have turned sharply west to run along the bottom of the ditch at the foot of the truncated inner rampart accounting for the slight hollowing in the bottom of ditch referred to earlier. It may have turned onto the north end of Terrace 2 which, as will be discussed below, is one of several routeways identified crossing the interior of the hillfort. However Structure 1 blocks this turn indicating it must post-date this particular route. The second arm continued straight on into the interior giving rise to the erosion scars which cross the truncated inner rampart and which lead towards the most prominent of the terraced routeways (Terrace 1) and the lesser terraces to its east (Terraces 3 and 4).

The middle rampart on the east side of the entrance curves outwards slightly, flanking the approach, before turning south for 25m along the east edge of the promontory, eventually fading into the natural slope. Significantly this takes it part of the way along the east side of the Phase 1 hillfort where it quite clearly cuts across the end of the levelled north rampart and, beyond, the edges of two quarry hollows presumed to be from the construction of the missing east rampart. These relationships clearly demonstrate that the middle rampart is later than the Phase 1 hillfort. It is has probably been eroded away beyond the point where it fades out but it is likely to have carried on to link up with the remnants of the Phase 1 east rampart thus securing the east side of the hillfort in Phase 2. There is no trace of a bank along the crest of the Phase 2 rampart east of the entrance, but it was probably surmounted by a timber palisade which has left no surface traces. Two large earth-fast stones lie together along the crest of the rampart which may be the remnants of a slight wall anchoring the base of the suggested palisade.

Immediately west of the entrance, the outer face of the middle rampart rises to a height of around 2.5m externally as it incorporates a slight north-facing ridge at its base. Its maximum height of 1.8m and width of 10m is at the point where the natural gradient starts to level off close to the west edge of the promontory. The bank then

declines markedly to a height of only 0.3m, before turning along the crest of the slope above Glead's Cleugh where it runs into the base of the inner rampart. The shallow ditch between the middle and outer ramparts is traversed by several crescentic scoops, presumably indicating points where slightly more resistant bands of rock were encountered. One of these scoops may be earlier and define part of the perimeter of the suggested Phase 1 quarry hollow. The inner edge of the ditch appears to be contiguous with the foot of the middle rampart and the outer edge follows the inside of the outer rampart and it therefore appears that the ditch and the two ramparts are contemporary. On the east, the inner edge of the ditch quite clearly curves southwards to flank the west side of the causeway leading up to the entrance through the middle rampart.

The marked difference in the form of the middle rampart either side of the entrance raises the possibility that the two sections might not be contemporary. However, the relatively insubstantial section of rampart to the east of the entrance is more likely to reflect concerns over the stability of anything more substantial on the side of the promontory where the Phase 1 hillfort had previously experienced collapse. As in Phase 1, both the Phase 2 ramparts appear to incorporate mainly small 'fist-sized' stones in their construction judging by the surface spreads at the east end of both ramparts. There are no larger facing stones obvious in these spreads suggesting the ramparts were without any internal or external revetment and therefore probably of simple dump construction. Several much larger stones were noted lying in the grass close to the east ends of both ramparts, one of which had been roughly squared and they could well be displaced facing stones from a section of revetment. As these stones are around the area of the Phase 2 entrance, it is possible that revetment walls flanked the entrance. It is highly probable that spoil from the levelled section of the Phase 1 bank went into the construction of the Phase 2 ramparts. Additional material probably came from the series of shallow quarry scoops immediately to the north of the outer rampart and from digging the ditch between it and the middle rampart. But, as in Phase 1, the bulk of stone probably came from scree slopes around the margins of the promontory.

4.4 Hillfort occupation

The probable sites of 14 timber round houses are visible in the interior of the hillfort as sub-circular platforms. These cut slightly into the natural slope at the back, and in most instances there is clear evidence that the front has been built out to create a level platform for the siting of a timber round house. At least four house sites cut, and therefore clearly post-date, the rampart on the west side of the hillfort whilst two more (Structures 1 and 14) clearly overlie the truncated Phase 1 rampart on the north side. Structure 1 is the only one of the 14 structures with an associated yard or livestock pen defined by a hollow area immediately downslope from the house site. There is also clear evidence that not all the house sites are contemporary since two cut other platforms and several clearly block access to their immediate neighbours.

In addition to the house platforms, there are clear traces of five terraced routeways visible in the interior of the hillfort aligned along the contours of the slope. The terraces are probably all natural in origin (caused by the differential erosion of the slope) but appear to have been used as routeways by the occupants of the hillfort. Most of the house platforms front onto one of the terraces whilst the scars of tracks crossing the levelled inner rampart join up with Terraces 1, 3 and 4. The most prominent terrace (Terrace 1) is aligned on the north-east entrance into the Phase 2 hillfort and the route thus created divides the house platforms into west and east

groups (Structures 1-9 and 10-14 respectively). Terrace 1 has a clear uphill edge with a 0.4m high scarp cut into the natural slope whilst the opposite side seems to have run at the back of several house platforms (Structures 10-12). Around 10m beyond the end of the terrace, a large area of rabbit disturbance could mask its continuation or the sites of further house platforms. There is no evidence that the terrace was ever built over and it appears likely to have continued in use as a routeway throughout most of the lifetime of the hillfort, until eventually impeded by the perimeter of the yard adjacent to Structure 1. The other four terraces will be described below along with structures with which they are associated.

The most northerly of the house platforms (Structure 1) is a near circular platform around 8m in diameter, defined by a prominent back scarp which is up to 1.2m high and cuts into the south side of the levelled inner rampart. This quite securely establishes that the structure is later than the levelling of the bank. The south side of the house platform is contiguous with the edge of a hollow area representing a probable small yard on the east side of the round house. The exact extent of the yard is not possible to ascertain as there is no obvious perimeter surviving on the north and east sides. However, access appears to have been from the north where the crest of the levelled bank has been slightly eroded away, perhaps by the passage of livestock into and out of the yard. The house platform blocks access from the north along Terrace 2 suggesting it probably post-dates Structures 2-6 which would have used this terrace for access whilst the adjacent yard partially blocks the end of Terrace 1, impeding what was probably the main route into the interior from the north entrance. These relationships establish that Structure 1 must come late in the sequence of occupation and raises the possibility that it might even be Romano-British in date. The fact that Structure 1 is very like the Romano-British round house sites with adjacent yards next to the hillfort at Castle Hill, Alnham, supports this suggestion (Pearson *et al*, 2001).

Structures 2-7 are aligned along the rear of the west rampart and it is possible that they are all broadly contemporary since despite their close proximity, none overlap. Four of the platforms cut into the base of the rampart indicating they post-date the raising of the bank (Structures 2-4, and 7) and the other two structures are probably the same because they are contiguous with the bottom of the rampart and are therefore unlikely to pre-date it. Structures 2-5 face onto a slight terrace (Terrace 2) several metres wide, which may have provided access from the north to these particular round houses. However Structures 8 and 9 are sited on the terrace indicating its abandonment as a routeway during the occupancy of the hillfort and therefore, by implication, the round houses fronting it. This relative dating is confirmed by the fact that Structure 8 cuts into Structure 4 as will be discussed more fully below.

Structure 2 is 9m in diameter and defined by a curving scarp 0.3m high. The position of the timber round house is indicated with reasonable clarity by two concentric ring grooves, the outer continuing further than the inner. The ring grooves, which survive as slight narrow slots emphasised by more verdant grass, probably held the upright posts for the exterior wall of the round house. Immediately to the south, Structure 3 is defined by a crescentic back scarp up to 0.3m high and 9m in diameter. This breadth of curve is not continuous around the platform, as the front edge, defined by a relatively straight but slight outward-facing slope, is only 5m from the apex of back scarp. The approximate position of the round house may be indicated by a slightly more verdant area of grass in the centre of the platform. Structure 4 is defined by a crescentic back scarp up to 0.3m high and 7m in diameter. Extrapolating the

perimeter of the platform from this curve clearly demonstrates that it has been cut away on the east by the edge of an adjacent house platform (Structure 8) indicating that Structure 4 must be the earlier of the two. A slight outward-facing scarp emerges beyond Structure 8 and could be the continuation of the front edge of Structure 4 but this is not definite as it is almost 10m from the apex of the back scarp which would make it the widest of the house platforms. Immediately to the south, Structure 5 is defined by an oval-shaped hollow up to 0.8m deep which may in fact be two conjoined house platforms, with one lying to the east of the other. The west platform is clearly defined by a crescentic scarp defining a sub-circular platform about 5m in diameter. The northern arm of this scarp continues to define a second possible platform immediately to the east, again around 5m in diameter. If there are two platforms here they are unlikely to have been occupied simultaneously; more likely is that the better-defined west platform is the later of the two.

Structure 6 is a clearly defined circular platform around 5m in diameter with a prominent crescentic back scarp up to 0.4m high, the curve of which continues as a slight earthen bank. There is a gap on the north suggesting the round house had a north-facing entrance looking along the line of the natural slope. The most southerly of the group (Structure 7) is somewhat isolated from the others at the head of a natural hollow leading down into the shelf area at the south end of the hillfort. The house platform is defined by a prominent 1m high crescentic back scarp some 5m in diameter and by a relatively straight and slight outward-facing slope along the front. The natural shelf below the house platform may have been used for coralling livestock since it is otherwise difficult to understand why the largest area of level ground within the hillfort is devoid of any house sites. It could have been made into a stock yard relatively easily with a fence on two sides along the crest of the natural slopes and with the hillfort bank to complete the enclosure. The south entrance into the hillfort, which the survey established is a later breach, opens into the suggested stock yard and could have been made to provide a route down to the Akeld Burn for the livestock. As the entrance was not part of the Phase 1 perimeter, it (and the stock yard) might be part of the Phase 2 hillfort. With the hollow leading directly from the shelf up to Structure 7, it is not unreasonable to speculate that this particular round house may have been associated with the suggested stock yard.

Structures 8 and 9 have already been highlighted as demonstrably later than Structures 2-5 since Structure 8 cuts into the east side of Structure 4 and both obstruct a possible routeway giving access to Structures 2-5 (Terrace 2). Structure 8 is defined by a prominent crescentic back scarp up to 0.4m high and 9m in diameter which begins and ends at the edge of Terrace 1 and which defines the front of the platform making it some 5m across. Structure 9 is a circular platform defined by a crescentic 0.3m high scarp some 9m in diameter. The front edge of the platform is set slightly back from Terrace 1 and there is a slight hollowing in the south-east edge of the platform which may be the remnant of a ramp leading from the terrace up to the round house.

Between Terrace 1 and the east side of the hillfort is a group of five houses arranged along the contours of the slope. They are demonstrably not all contemporary as Structure 13 clearly cuts into the perimeter of Structure 10 and Structure 14 appears to obstruct direct access to Structures 11 and 12 from the north along a lower routeway (Terrace 3). The edge of this particular platform also cuts the inside of the levelled north rampart of the Phase 1 hillfort, establishing that Structure 14 must belong to Phase 2. Structure 10 is a sub-circular platform up to 6.5m in diameter defined by a 0.3m crescentic back scarp cut into the slope on the uphill side and by a

slight curving front scarp where the platform has been built out downslope. There is no scarp evident on the west side suggesting the house may have faced in this direction. The front edge of the platform is clearly cut by the back scarp of Structure 13, which is therefore clearly later. Structures 11 and 12 overlook a lower terrace (Terrace 3) defined by a slight scarp on the uphill side and by the eastern edge of the promontory. Structure 11 is a sub-circular platform with a gently curving back scarp up to 0.5m high and 10m in diameter. The south end of the scarp is contiguous with a slight outward facing front scarp, which gives a maximum width from front to back across the platform of 5m. A gap between the front and back scarps on the north-east edge of the platform could indicate the direction in which the round house faced.

Structure 12 is sub-rectangular and aligned along the upper edge of the terrace. It is defined on three sides by a continuous scarp which attains a maximum height of 0.6m and length of 9m whilst the on the fourth is the edge of the terrace giving the platform a maximum width of 5m. The platform appears to have been scooped out from the sides of a pre-existing terrace (Terrace 4) which clearly emerges as a prominent 0.6m high slope from the north side of the platform, fading at the point it is cut by Structure 14. This terrace could have served as a routeway prior to the construction of Structures 12 and 14. Structure 13 is a sub-circular platform defined by a 0.5m high crescentic back scarp which clearly cuts into the south-east perimeter of Structure 10, and by a slight, straight front scarp giving the platform an overall diameter of around 5m. The platform is open to the south where it faces onto a slight terrace (Terrace 5) heading towards the edge of the shelf as the south apex of the hillfort. This may be the direction in which the round house faced. It seems unlikely that Terrace 5 is the southern continuation of either Terrace 3 or Terrace 4 because of the steep gradient of the intervening natural slope. Structure 14 is a sub-circular platform defined by a curving back scarp some 0.4m in height and up to 7m in diameter. On the north the scarp cuts the inner edge of the levelled rampart as was mentioned above whilst on the south the edge of the platform continues as a slight earthen bank for a distance of 5m. It is this bank which effectively obstructs access to Structures 10 and 11 from the north along Terrace 3 establishing that these particular round houses probably pre-date Structure 14.

The suggestion was made earlier that the levelling of most of the inner rampart in Phase 2 may have been partly intended to improve communications within the hillfort, and that this in turn could have led to an expansion of occupation across the interior. However, this is difficult to prove from the field evidence as only structures 1 and 14 clearly belong to Phase 2 as they cut the levelled section of rampart. Indeed, Structure 1 could be Romano-British for reasons discussed earlier in the report. Structures 8 and 13 are late in the sequence because they clearly cut the perimeters of neighbouring platforms (Structures 4 and 10 respectively) and therefore could conceivably belong to Phase 2 as might Structures 2-6, arranged along the inside of the west rampart. The argument for this is that the house platforms would have been difficult to reach along Terrace 2 before the levelling of the inner rampart. However, they could be earlier if the entrance into the Phase 1 hillfort was at the north end of the terrace, a possibility with some evidence to support it. If the suggestion is accepted that the southernmost of the house platforms (Structure 7) had a role in overseeing the possible livestock pen at the south end of the hillfort, this too could belong to Phase 2 rather than Phase 1. This is based on the evidence that the breach in the rampart giving access to this area was not an original part of the Phase 1 hillfort implying that the pen itself did not appear until Phase 2. In contrast, Structures 10 and 11 come early in the sequence because they are at the end of Terrace 4 which was later blocked by the construction of both Structures 12 and 14 and therefore may belong to Phase 1.

4.5 Later activity

There is no evidence that the hillfort was occupied after the Iron Age apart from the slight possibility referred to above that Structure 1 might be Romano-British in date. There is also no evidence that the ramparts have been quarried into for their stone, which might be anticipated given the proximity of the stone-walled cottages and paddocks less than 200m to the east. Presumably the nearby scree slopes and outcrops provided sufficient material for these structures, obviating the need to dig into the banks of the hillfort for stone. There are two shallow scoops cut into the west perimeter of the middle and outer ramparts, which look like temporary shelters, perhaps dug by hikers or shepherds. They are both sited to gain the maximum protection from the hillfort ramparts, which enclose them on all but their east sides. They are impossible to date but are unlikely to be recent, as there is no evidence of fresh scarring of the ground surface. Three recent erosion scars on the outside of the west rampart indicate this side of the hillfort defences is undergoing active weathering.

4.6 The exterior of the hillfort

The terrain on three sides of the promontory is too precipitous to have been exploited, but to the north, where the ground is more favourable, no evidence of cultivation or occupation was noted. Some attempt appears to have been made to drain the boggy area in the floor of the shallow valley north-east of the promontory by cutting a channel towards the head of the east ravine. There is no indication that this is anything other than for drainage, though it might be anticipated that a ditch in this position, straddling the main line of approach to the hillfort, could have been dug as part of the Iron Age defences. A pronounced natural scarp, rising progressively westwards, defines the southern edge of this valley and it has the appearance of an external rampart when approaching the promontory from the north-east (Figure 9). There is no evidence that the crest of this rise was ever fortified though a timber palisade might not have left any surface traces.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 The hillfort

Although the term hillfort is often applied to sites in the Cheviots that are little more than defended homesteads, the term is entirely appropriate in the case of the Glead's Cleugh settlement. The scale and extent of the north-facing defences and the intensity of occupation in the interior all indicate that the site is more than just a fortified homestead, whilst the natural strength of its location testifies to the importance attached to defence in the choice of site. The security of the hillfort is somewhat compromised by the proximity of higher ground to the west but this does not pose a real threat because of the depth and steepness of the intervening ravine.

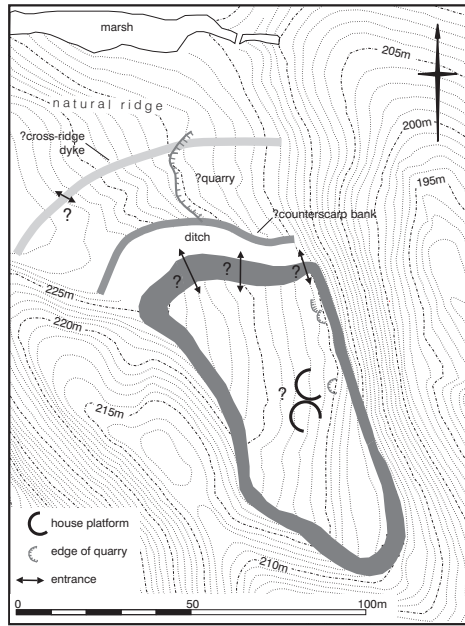
Location

The hillfort is one of seven on the north-east fringe of the Cheviots which could be said to create 'a highly visible symbolic display along the periphery of the hills' (Topping 1999, 15-16). Others of this group, such as Humbleton Hill and Yeavinger Bell are far more visible from the lowlands of the Milfield Plain and Glendale than Glead's Cleugh and its immediate neighbour to the south, Monday Cleugh which are both set some distance back from the edge of the Cheviot escarpment overlooking minor side valleys. Indeed, in the case of Glead's Cleugh, it is questionable if the hillfort would have been at all obvious from the Milfield Plain, given that it is nearly 1km from the point where the Akeld Burn valley opens into the plain.

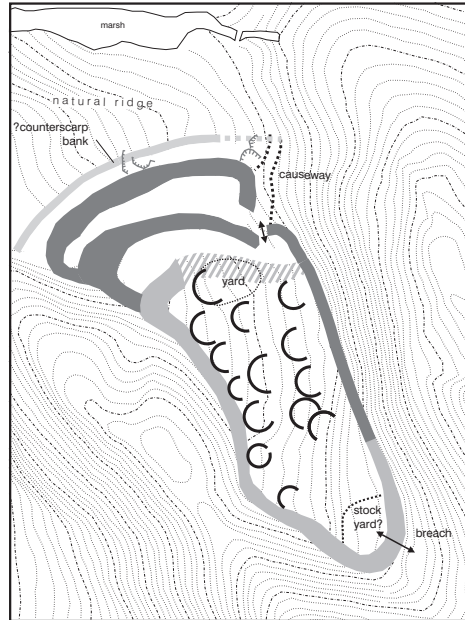
The suggested role of hillforts in 'guarding' important valley routes leading into the interior of the Cheviot Hills such as those found along the Ingram valley and on the west side of the College valley may explain the siting of the fort at Glead's Cleugh. It seems unlikely however, that the Akeld Burn valley has ever had much significance as a routeway because it does not penetrate very far into the hills nor does the hillfort particularly command the route along the valley bottom. A false crest below the south side of the fort and the shoulder of White Law to the west hide a large section of the valley floor from the summit of the hillfort promontory, which would surely have compromised the hillfort's ability to 'guard' the valley. Perhaps of more relevance to the siting of the hillfort is a possible ridge-top route between the Akeld Burn valley and Glendale via the narrow ravine separating Akeld Hill from White Law and passing immediately to the north of the hillfort. The fact that the hillfort appears to have been approached from this direction supports the probable existence of this route which, once through into Glendale, could have continued westwards to the hillfort on Yeavinger Bell.

Occupation

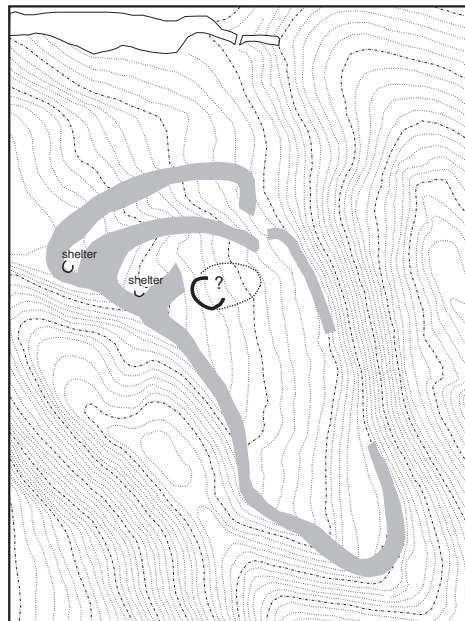
One of the important results of the field investigation was the discovery of 14 house platforms in the interior when no more than four had been recognised previously. As a result, Glead's Cleugh emerges as one of the most intensively occupied hillforts in the region at least when compared to those surveyed by Jobey (Jobey 1965). This may change if the other sites were ever to be excavated but nonetheless the arrangement of house platforms at Glead's Cleugh speaks of a relatively populous site. Clearly not all the round houses were occupied at the same time since several platforms overlap, but on the other hand, the regular spacing of the house sites along the terraced routeways suggests that the majority must have been occupied at broadly the same time. The number of houses seems excessive for a single extended family so perhaps two or



Phase 1



Phase 2



Post Iron Age features

Figure 10.
Interpretative
plans showing
the development
of the hillfort

more family groups are represented at the site in which case the fact that there are two groups of house platforms separated by Terrace 1 may be relevant. Other than this, there is no evidence of internal boundaries or distinct clusters of platforms that might help identify social groups nor any clear statement of hierarchy in the size or disposition of the house platforms.

The levelling of the inner rampart and the construction of new defences in Phase 2 does not appear to have led to an expansion of occupation northwards within the hillfort apart from the construction of Structures 1 and 14 which both partly overlie the levelled rampart. The field survey concluded that the decision to re-build the north side was most likely prompted by concerns over the stability of the existing north rampart given that there is good evidence that the north-east corner of the Phase 1 hillfort was lost prior to the Phase 2 expansion. Levelling of the inner rampart may have followed to open up access into the interior of the hillfort from the north-east entrance. It is possible that the majority of house platforms did not appear until Phase 2, as access would have been more of a problem before the levelling of the inner rampart. Following the destruction of the inner rampart, Terrace 2 on the west could be approached from the Phase 2 entrance using the redundant ditch as an intermediate routeway whilst Terraces 1 and 3 were evidently approached directly by crossing over the levelled rampart (demonstrated by the erosion scars on this alignment). It has already been observed that because Structure 1 blocks access to Terrace 2, this particular house platform probably comes late in the sequence of occupation. The possibility was raised earlier that it might be Romano-British and therefore post-date the abandonment of the hillfort but if this is the case, it may have existed in isolation since it is reasonably certain that the remaining settlement remains are from the period of the hillfort. There is certainly no evidence for the large-scale re-occupation and re-use of the site during the Romano-British period as at several Cheviot hillforts recently surveyed by English Heritage (Oswald *et al*, 2000; Pearson *et al* 2001).

Construction

Although previous field investigations have not considered the phasing of the hillfort defences, there is sufficient earthwork evidence that the site began as a univallate fort with the addition of multivallate defences on the north in a second phase. There is evidence of a counterscarp bank beyond the Phase 2 outer rampart but this must have been abandoned even while the outer rampart was being constructed as it is cut by quarrying associated with the construction of the rampart. An alternative interpretation is that the earthwork is earlier and connected with the Phase 1 hillfort, despite being some 30m to its north. Its position in relation to the Phase 1 fort and its alignment crossing the neck of the promontory bears comparison with 'cross-ridge' dykes found in close proximity to several hillforts in the region, such as the recently discovered example near the hillfort on Great Hetha in the College Valley (Pearson and Lax, 2001). An almost direct parallel is offered by the univallate promontory fort on Chester Hill, Hundleshope in Peebleshire (RCAHMS 1967, 108-9) where a slight bank crosses the neck of the promontory some 15 metres (50 feet) beyond the hillfort. Cross-ridge dykes probably served more as territorial markers than defensive outworks, and this may explain the ditch and bank at Glead's Cleugh should it prove to be earlier than the Phase 2 defences.

The prime motivation for the addition of two further lines of rampart in Phase 2 may have been greater security on the more vulnerable north side where the promontory has no natural defences and where the main entrance into the hillfort was sited. However, this simple explanation is at odds with the evident destruction of the most

of the inner rampart. This would surely have been retained as additional security if defence had been of paramount concern also it is surprising that the Phase 2 defences were not aligned another 10 - 20m further north along the prominent slope overlooking the valley. Although it is possible the crest of the ridge was fortified with a timber palisade that has left no visible traces, siting a rampart along here would have made a far more powerful defence.

The observation has been made in connection with other recent hillfort surveys in the Cheviots that architectural display often played an important part in the form of the defences 'often over-riding what might seem to be common-sense considerations from a defensive point of view' (Oswald 2000, 16). At Glead's Cleugh there is a clear example of 'architectural display' in the way the Phase 2 ramparts build to prominent peaks well back from the west edge of the promontory. Whilst this might not make much sense from a tactical point of view, the strongest sections of rampart are clearly silhouetted against the far hillside when viewed from the north-east, broadcasting the strength of the fort to anyone approaching from this direction. It is also more likely that the upstanding section of the inner rampart was retained to enhance this display than it was left to defend a potential weak point at the north-west angle of the hillfort. Perhaps this also explains why the Phase 2 defences were not aligned slightly further out to take advantage of the slope from the floor of the 'hanging valley' on the north side of the promontory. Whilst it would have made tactical sense to align the defences along the crest of this rise, the effect of the silhouetted ramparts could not have been achieved.

5.2 LATER ACTIVITY

There is virtually no evidence that the hillfort was occupied after the Iron Age, apart from the one possible Romano-British house site already referred to (Structure 1). The lack of any convincing evidence of stone robbing may be because nearby scree slopes were far easier to exploit nor is there any evidence that the defences were used as ready-made animal pens as at some neighbouring hillforts (Pearson *et al* 2001). Perhaps the steep gradient across the interior made it less attractive for penning livestock than some other hillfort sites in the vicinity and the loss of the perimeter bank on the east side would certainly have made it less suitable. The two hollows protected by the north-west defences are best interpreted as temporary shelters dug by hikers or shepherds in the recent past.

METHODOLOGY

The field investigation was carried out by Trevor Pearson and Stewart Ainsworth using Trimble 4800 and 4700 dual frequency Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) systems related to a base station on site. The base station had previously been established using the GPS equipment and related to the National Grid (OSGB36) through a transformation programme which calculated its position relative to three Ordnance Survey active GPS stations at Carlisle, Glasgow and Newcastle. Two permanent and intervisible stations were established on the site to allow future work with conventional survey equipment. The positions of both stations are marked by brass rivets set into rock outcrops and their positions are indicated on the English Heritage survey plan (Figures 7) and further details are recorded in Appendix 2. The plot of the hillfort and its environs was produced from the GPS data using Key Terra-Firma and AutoCad software and output at a scale of 1:500. The plot was checked in the field and further detail added to it by means of conventional graphical techniques using hand tapes. Sufficient GPS points were surveyed to generate contours on the survey plot at 1m intervals and to construct a 3D digital terrain model.

The report was written by Trevor Pearson and illustrated by Trevor Pearson and Philip Sinton using AutoCad, Corel Draw and Corel Ventura software. Stewart Ainsworth edited the report. The site archive has been deposited in English Heritage's National Monuments Record, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ to where applications for copyright should be made (reference number NT 92 NW 15).

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APPENDIX 1: Table of NMR numbers linked to the survey

Iron Age hillfort	NT 9488 9089	NT 92 NW 15
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APPENDIX 2: Locations of permanent survey stations




ENGLISH HERITAGE

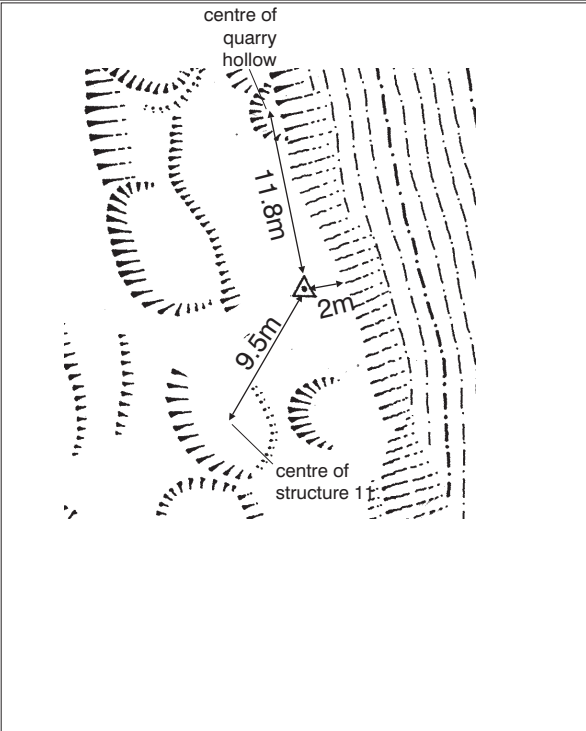
SURVEY STATION INFORMATION

SITE NAME	Glead's Cleugh, Northumberland		
Station number	ST 01	Status	Permanent
Type of Mark	Brass rivet in rock	NMR number	NT 92 NW 15
Date of Survey	18-JAN-2001	Sam number	
Office of origin	York	RSM number	29308
Surveyor(s)	TP; SA	Neg number	

Co-ordinate Scheme	Eastings	Northings	Height
OS National Grid	394 920.651	629 058.497	215.891
Divorced Site Grid			



View of ST01 looking east



SURVEY STATION INFORMATION



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SITE NAME	Glead's Cleugh, Northumberland		
Station number	ST 02	Status	Permanent
Type of Mark	Brass rivet in rock	NMR number	NT 92 NW 15
Date of Survey	18-JAN-2001	Sam number	
Office of origin	York	RSM number	29308
Surveyor(s)	TP; SA	Neg number	

Co-ordinate Scheme	Eastings	Northings	Height
OS National Grid	394 928.420	629 014.052	212.915
Divorced Site Grid			



View of ST 02 looking east

