



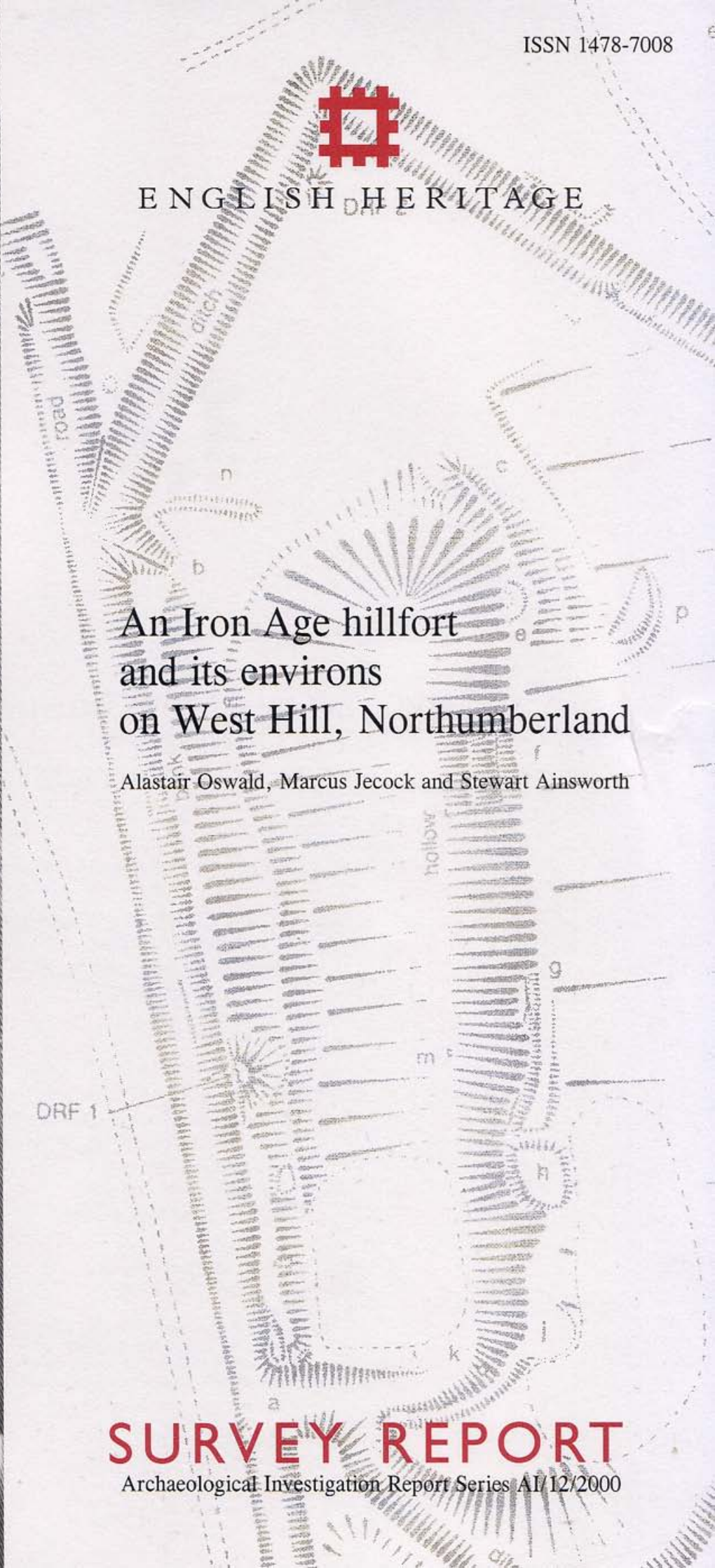
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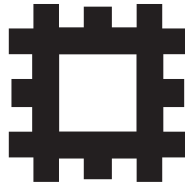
An Iron Age hillfort
and its environs
on West Hill, Northumberland

Alastair Oswald, Marcus Jecock and Stewart Ainsworth

SURVEY REPORT

Archaeological Investigation Report Series AI/12/2000





**AN IRON AGE HILLFORT AND ITS ENVIRONS
ON WEST HILL
NORTHUMBERLAND**

Archaeological Investigation Report Series AI/12/2000

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE SURVEY

Between the middle of December 1999 and the end of February 2000, English Heritage carried out a field investigation of an Iron Age hillfort and its environs, on West Hill in Northumberland. The analytical field survey formed part of the Northumberland National Park Authority's project entitled 'Discovering our hillfort heritage', 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. West Hill, also known in the 19th century as Newton Hill, lies 1km south-west of the village of Kirknewton, in the parish of the same name and the district of Berwick upon Tweed. The hillfort on which the investigation focused is centred at National Grid Reference NT 9096 2951. 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).

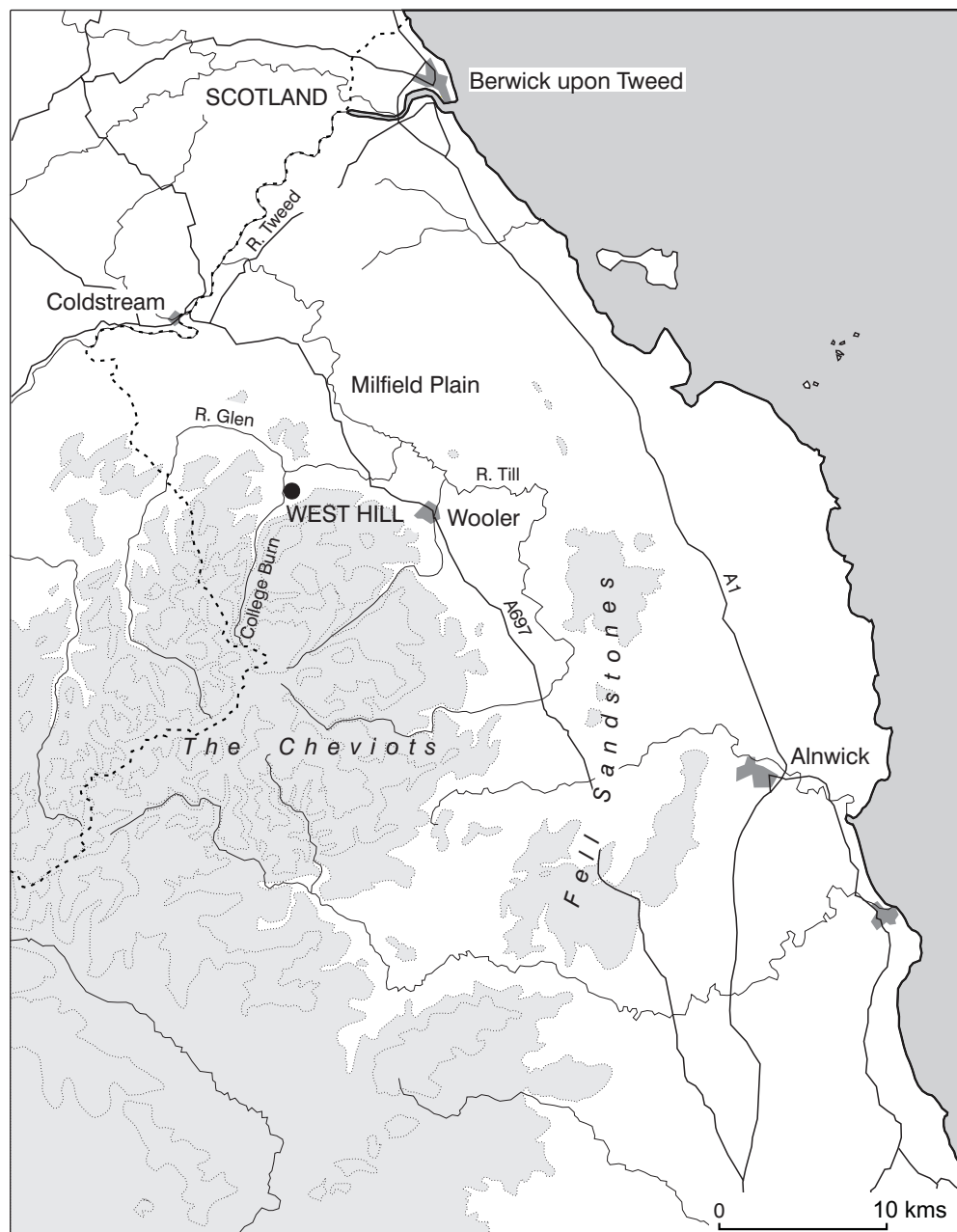


Figure 1.
Location
map

The principal monuments on the summit of West Hill are the stone-built Iron Age hillfort itself; an arc of bank and ditch, which possibly represent part of an earlier enclosure; an outer enclosure surrounding the hillfort, which may be a Romano-British addition; and a small enclosed settlement, built over the bank of the outer enclosure. This last enclosure is of a type generally agreed to be of Romano-British date and is referred to as such throughout this report. All but one of the thirteen structures identified in the interior of the hillfort also appear to post-date the collapse of the rampart, and may well be of Romano-British date. All the remains within, and including, the perimeters of the outer enclosure and the Romano-British enclosed settlement are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 221). They are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record for Northumberland as 206/31, and in the National Monuments Record (NMR) as NT 92 NW 31, 112, 113 and 114 respectively. All the earthworks in the immediate environs of the hillfort were surveyed at a scale of 1:1000.

On the flanks of the hill and in the valley bottom to the south, the field investigation identified a wealth of archaeological remains including an example of 'rock art', possible funerary monuments, settlements, field systems and stock enclosures, ranging in date from the later prehistoric period to the 19th century. The identifiers for all the remains recorded in the course of the survey are listed in Appendix 1. This landscape was recorded as a whole at a scale of 1:2500, but certain monuments were singled out for survey at larger scales. The investigation of all the remains was carried out at Level 3 standard (as defined in RCHME 1999, 3-4), and covered a total area of 0.5 km² (50.0 hectares or 123.5 acres).

2. GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

West Hill is an isolated peak lying at the north-eastern edge of the Cheviot Hills. Like the main part of the upland massif, the underlying rock is andesitic granite, a hard volcanic stone which varies in colour from pale grey to deep pink (Tomkeieff 1965). The rock fractures easily and is widely used in the local area as a building material. Near the summit of West Hill, where the soil is relatively thin, there are numerous andesite outcrops, many of which have been subject to small-scale quarrying (see Section 4.2). On the lower slopes and surrounding valley bottoms, glacial till deposits and overlying colluvium (hillwash) have created more gentle gradients and deeper brownearth soils better suited to arable agriculture.

West Hill reaches an altitude of 215m above Ordnance Datum (OD), commanding broad views across the low-lying Milfield Plain to the north-east, the confluence of the valleys of the River Glen and the College Burn to the north, and the College Valley to the west. The hilltop is itself overlooked by the summits of Yeavinger Bell to the east and Easter and Wester Newton Tors to the south. The hillfort is intervisible with prehistoric enclosures on St Gregory's Hill and Yeavinger Bell to the east, Hethpool Bell to the south-west and several others in the farther distance. The west and north sides of the hill slope steeply to the College Burn, a fast-flowing stream whose headwaters rise on the flanks of The Cheviot itself, which is the highest peak in the massif at 815m above OD. The south and east sides slope more gently into the valleys of small tributary streams, beyond which the ground rises once more into the main massif of the Cheviot hills.

Most of the area investigated is currently grazed by sheep and cattle. There are no buildings in the immediate vicinity, with the exception of Torleehouse Farm, which lies 700m to the south-east of the hillfort. The summit and northern slopes of West Hill are under rough pasture, but large tracts have been lightly ploughed to improve the quality of the pasture, probably in the 19th century (see Section 4.4). The pasture is much more lush on the lower slopes and valley floor on the southern side of the hill, partly as a result of several episodes of intensive arable cultivation in the past. Most of the western slope of the hill is covered with gorse scrub and woodland comprising scrub oak and hawthorn; this area was not investigated in detail. Isolated patches of gorse have also become established on the southern and eastern slopes of the hill. Two small pine plantations on the saddle to the south-east of the hill were planted in the late 1950s or early 1960s (information from Colin Martin, landowner).

The land is privately owned, but a permissive footpath follows the foot of the hill on its south-western side, and plans for more open public access were under discussion at the time of the survey. There is no vehicular access onto the hill except by 4-wheel drive with the permission of the landowner.

3. HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The first large-scale plan of the earthworks on West Hill was made in June 1860, when the remains were surveyed and analysed by the former Ordnance Survey field officer HH MacLauchlan for the Duke of Northumberland (MacLauchlan 1867, 39; 1919-22, 469; and Figure 2). Although the Ordnance Survey carried out the fieldwork for their 25-inch scale mapping in the same year, the fact that MacLauchlan used the name Newton Hill suggests his survey to be the earlier of the two (see below). MacLauchlan used the term 'camp' to denote the hillfort and described the



Figure 2.
HH MacLauchlan's
plan of the hillfort,
surveyed 1860

(reproduced by
permission of His
Grace the Duke of
Northumberland)

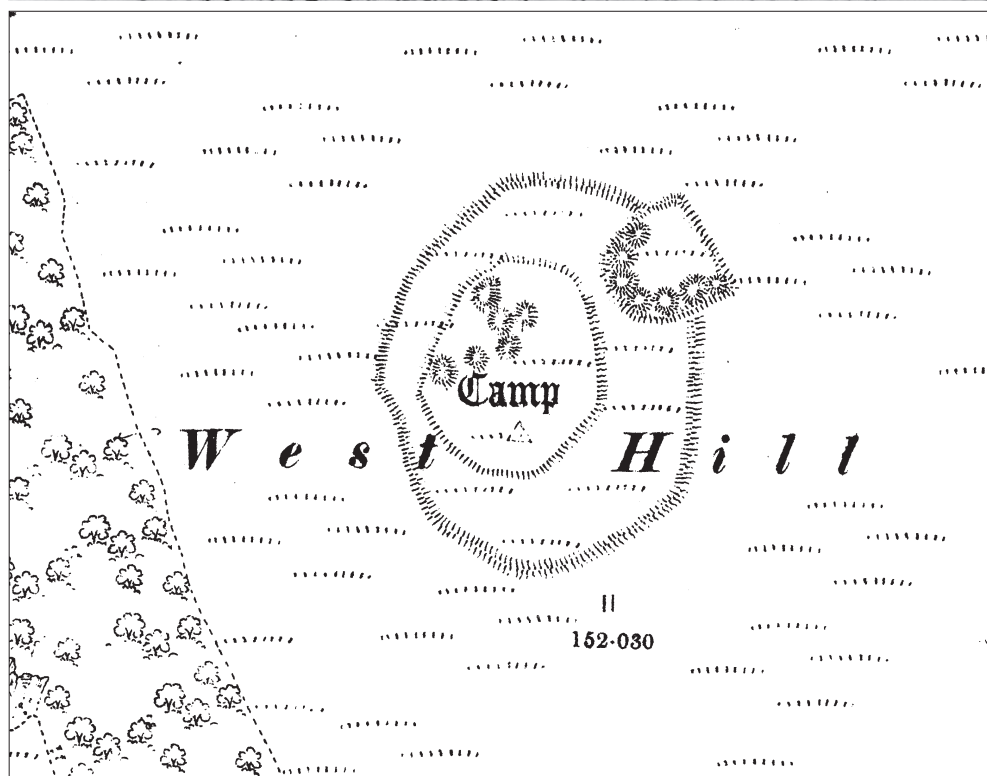


Figure 3.
Ordnance Survey
plan of the hillfort,
surveyed 1860

outer enclosure incorrectly as 'quadrangular', believing both circuits to be of Roman military origin. His depiction of the hillfort is accurate, showing the entrance on the eastern side, but his plan of the circular structures in the interior is not so perceptive, showing only four examples (of which one is actually rectangular and possibly of post-medieval date). His depiction of the outer enclosure is remarkably accurate given his misleading description in the accompanying text, and indicates the position of the two major gaps in the bank recorded by later investigators. He also recorded the Romano-British enclosed settlement, with a line of four circular houses within it, but implicitly treated this settlement as an integral part of the hillfort, rather than as a later modification.

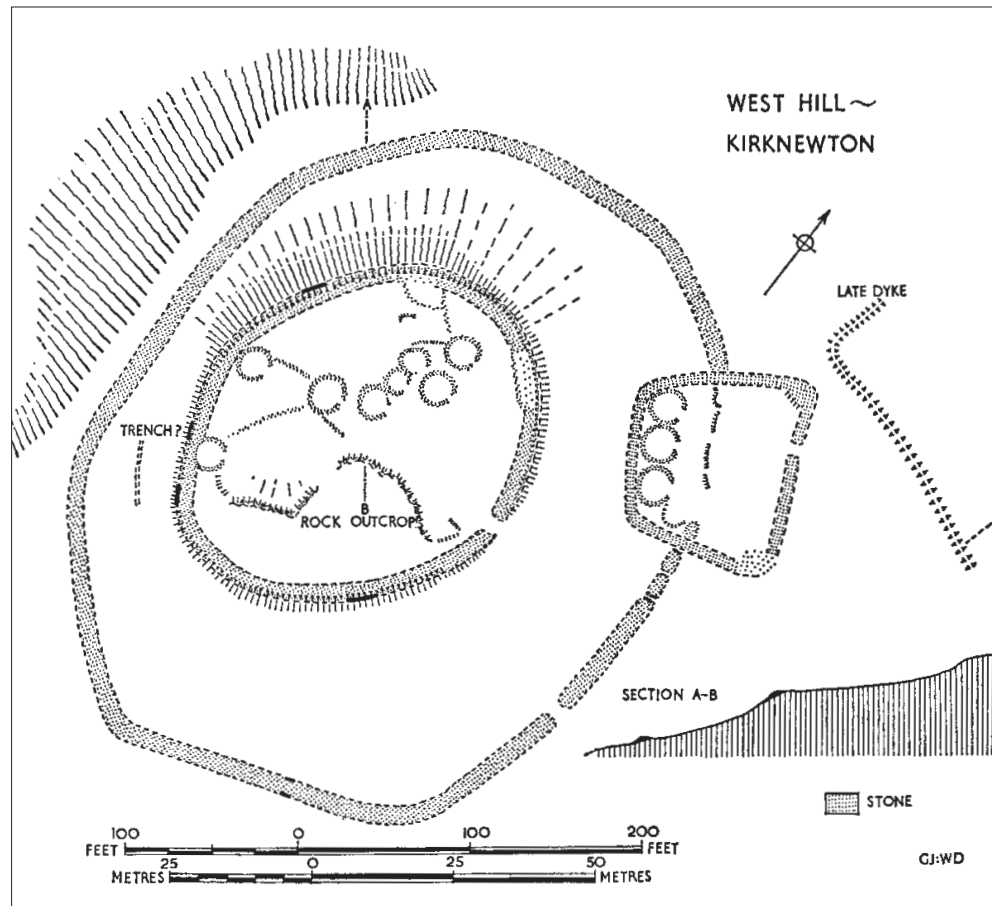
In the same year, the Ordnance Survey mapped the area at 25-inch scale (1:2500), applying - and thereby fixing permanently - the name West Hill (Ordnance Survey 1861 and Figure 3). The portrayal of the rampart of the hillfort is more schematic than that of MacLauchlan, and gives no indication of any entrance. However, the portrayal of the six circular structures identified in the interior is very accurate, corresponding closely to the more prominent examples recorded by the English Heritage investigation. The survey of the Romano-British enclosed settlement is particularly perceptive, depicting the course of the perimeter and a line of seven circular structures within it.

AHA Hogg, who carried out several field surveys of Iron Age and Romano-British sites in Northumberland, briefly described the enclosure on West Hill as a hillfort of probable Iron Age date (Hogg 1947, 155; 1979, 122).

In October 1955, Eric Geary of the Ordnance Survey described the remains at some length (NMRa). He noted the existence of the entrance on the east of the hillfort and identified five certain and two possible circular structures in the interior. In describing the circuit of the outer enclosure, he confirmed the existence of the two gaps identified by MacLauchlan, but commented that only the more southerly appeared to be an original entrance. Like Hogg, Geary accepted that the hillfort and the outer enclosure were likely to be contemporary, and probably of the 'native period'; that is, Iron Age. However, he cautiously suggested that the Romano-British enclosed settlement might post-date the outer enclosure (although he stopped short of interpreting it as being of that date). He also commented perceptively that the construction techniques of the outer enclosure and the Romano-British enclosed settlement were so similar that if the latter were indeed a later addition, a relatively short interval might have elapsed between the two constructional episodes. In more general terms, he interpreted the rampart of the hillfort as being defensive in function and the outer enclosure as being an annexe for the penning of livestock.

A more detailed field survey was carried out by George Jobey as part of his extensive fieldwork in the Cheviots (Jobey 1964, 52 and fig 8; 1965, 61; Figure 4). In addition to planning the spread of tumbled rubble from the rampart of the hillfort, Jobey defined the extent of surviving facing stones. He identified eight circular structures within the hillfort, together with various lengths of bank connecting them, and in some cases accurately portrayed the structures as being later than the ramparts. Between the rampart and the outer enclosure, Jobey recorded an earthwork which he cautiously annotated as a 'trench?', presumably meaning a palisade trench). His depiction of the outer enclosure differed little from those of earlier investigators, though he was more confident in portraying slight remnants of the circuit underlying the Romano-British enclosed settlement. Between the main entrance recorded by all previous investigators and the second gap discounted by Geary as a later

Figure 4.
George Jobey's
plan of the hillfort,
published 1964



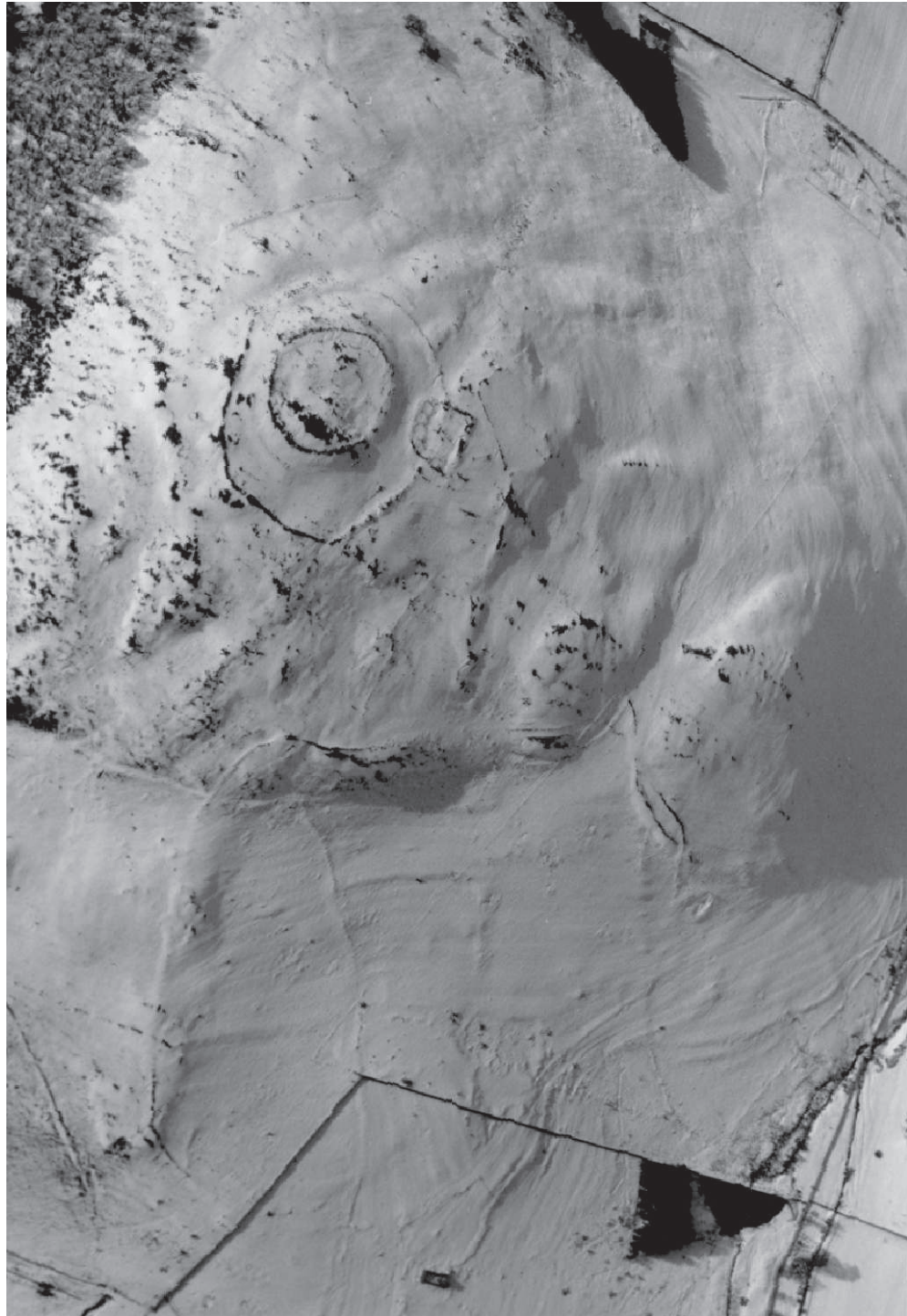
modification, Jobey recorded two more minor gaps on the eastern side, both of which were recorded by the English Heritage survey. Only one of these appears to have been discounted as recent damage by Jobey, for his plan suggests the existence of facing stones on both sides of the more southerly gap.

Successive field observations by Basil Pritchard and Iain Sainsbury of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey took place in June 1969 and June 1976, but neither contributed significantly to what had been recorded previously (NMRa). In the landscape around the hillfort, the Ordnance Survey's local archaeological correspondent, Sir Walter de la Aitchison, had identified four 'native homesteads' as early as 1949 (for example, NMRb; c). Subsequent field observations by the Ordnance Survey from 1955 onwards were generally sceptical of Aitchison's interpretations. However, one enclosure (which lies outside the main area of the English Heritage survey) was accepted as a probable Romano-British 'scooped settlement'. Various earthworks on the valley floor to the south-east of West Hill were identified by Aitchison as settlements, but were thought by the Ordnance Survey to have been confused with cultivation terraces and robbed field boundaries in the vicinity (see Section 4). The English Heritage investigation supports the sceptical attitude of the Ordnance Survey towards most of Aitchison's interpretations.

Black and white vertical aerial photographs produced by several non-specialist sorties are held in English Heritage's National Monuments Record. The earliest, flown in March and July 1948, are at small scales and not particularly informative (RAF 1948a; b). Photographs taken in October 1951 and 1974 (RAF 1951; Ordnance Survey 1974) are more useful, but by far the most revealing are the specialist oblique photographs taken by DW Harding in 1983 (Harding 1983) and by Tim Gates at

various dates (Gates 1982; 1985; 1997 and Figure 5). Although traces of cultivation are visible on earlier photography, it was the most recent images taken by Tim Gates that prompted proposals to ascertain the date of the agricultural remains and their relationship to the hillfort through detailed survey on the ground.

The fieldwork carried out by English Heritage in 1999 to 2000 was the most thorough and extensive investigation of the hillfort and its environs up to that date. The documentary research undertaken as part of the survey was limited to a review of the secondary sources and readily available primary sources, particularly maps and plans. With the exception of the hillfort, outer enclosure and Romano-British enclosed settlement, and the settlement on the saddle to the south-east of the hill, the monuments detailed below are described and analysed for the first time in this report.



*Figure 5.
Aerial photograph
of West Hill
from the south-east*

*(Copyright
Tim Gates 1985)*

4. DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE EARTHWORKS

4.1 Summary

The earliest remains identified on the summit of West Hill appear to be a stretch of bank and ditch that may represent part of an enclosure underlying the stone-built ramparts of the hillfort. The date of this possible earlier enclosure is uncertain, but it seems likely that a relatively short interval may separate the two constructional episodes. The hillfort itself comprises the fairly well preserved remains of a massive stone rampart, with a single entrance facing east. The sites of ten very probable and three possible buildings, mostly circular in plan, were identified within the circuit. In several cases, the buildings are clustered around small yard-like areas bounded by slight earthen banks. Previous investigators (see Section 3) have implicitly treated these as being contemporary with the hillfort, but two certainly post-date the collapse or destruction of the rampart, and all but one are probably of Romano-British date.

A less massively constructed outer enclosure has also generally been assumed to be contemporary with the hillfort because the two circuits are more or less concentric. However, there is some evidence to suggest that this too may be of Romano-British origin. The enclosure has been interpreted as a corral for penning livestock, but this interpretation is open to question. Evidence for structures or agricultural activity may have existed within the outer enclosure, but any traces that might have survived on the surface could have been degraded by ploughing in the 19th century. The circuit certainly has one original entrance on the eastern side, and it is possible that there was once a second at the point later occupied by a Romano-British enclosed settlement. This small compound, which directly overlies the bank of the outer enclosure, is of a type generally agreed to be of Romano-British date. It is extremely well preserved: the surviving earthworks are interpreted as the remains of at least two domestic round houses and up to eight ancillary structures, with associated yards. It seems likely that the arrangement of buildings within the enclosure, and perhaps the extent of the compound as a whole, was modified at least once.

Other than the hillfort, no certain examples of prehistoric settlements were identified in the landscape around West Hill. A single example of a boulder with traces of several 'cup marks' was discovered; this example of probable later Neolithic 'rock art' is relatively rare in the context of the granite Cheviots, although similar decorated boulders are common on the Fell Sandstone hills to the east, and elsewhere. Also worth singling out is a mound that may be a funerary barrow or a 'burnt mound', a type of earthwork usually thought to represent the remains of a Bronze Age 'sauna' or cooking hearth.

On the eastern and southern slopes of the hill are five probable 'scooped settlements'. The distinctive form of these small complexes, which typically occupy platforms deliberately scooped into the natural slope, is generally agreed to indicate a late Iron Age or Romano-British date. The better preserved examples comprise clusters of house platforms, which share some of the characteristics of the Romano-British enclosed settlement and the compounds within the hillfort. All the sites identified have been damaged by medieval and/or later ploughing and have consequently escaped the notice of previous investigators.

The landscape around West Hill retains traces of a long and complex agricultural development. The survey identified some thirty cairns, mostly scattered across the

lower south-eastern slopes of the hill and the adjacent saddle, which seem to result from the clearance of land for agriculture at a relatively early date, perhaps as early as the second millennium BC. A number of these were evidently gradually buried within a series of cultivation terraces (so-called 'Celtic fields'), which also probably originated in the same period. These terraces are linked and subdivided by low banks that radiate from the hilltop across the contours, and were eventually delimited by what seems to be a territorial boundary that runs for almost a kilometre between the two tributary streams to the south and east of the hill. The denuded remains of a linear series of conjoined pens seem to be contemporary with some of the boundaries. The association of the scooped settlements and various trackways with some of the radial banks suggests that the earlier pattern of fields may have been expanded and subdivided in the Romano-British period, and as such remained in use for a considerable length of time.

Subsequently, a few of the terraces and clearance cairns appear to have been incorporated into an arrangement of unenclosed medieval fields. Parts of these extensive tracts of broad ridge-and-furrow ploughing were presumably farmed by the occupants of Kirknewton. Associated with the medieval cultivation remains are various trackways, livestock enclosures and other structures. On the saddle that forms the watershed to the south-east of West Hill, the dilapidated drystone walls of a former cottage have been used since at least the mid-19th century as a sheepfold. The tumbled field walls associated with the ruinous building enclose two small paddocks, suggesting that it was a post-medieval small holding, comparable in size to a croft. The upstanding walls themselves overlie the earthwork remains of an earlier and larger longhouse with a cluster of outbuildings, which probably represent the site of a medieval farm. The boundaries associated with the medieval farm suggest that it lay at the centre of several fields of broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

At some point, perhaps in the post-medieval period, many of the broad ridges were subdivided into narrower fields. In the 19th century, large tracts of the hilltop were ploughed again, including the steep eastern slopes and the area between the outer enclosure and the rampart of the hillfort. This brief - but remarkably determined - episode of ploughing was probably intended to improve the pasture, rather than to cultivate crops. It is likely that the stone and concrete dam on the valley floor to the south-east of the hill was constructed at a broadly similar date to supply a water-powered mill at West Kirknewton Farm, replacing an earlier earthen dam. In the 1970s, land improvement and drainage in the area above the reservoir resulted in the creation of a scatter of cairns, which are not dissimilar in appearance to those that mark the start of the agricultural sequence.

In the following sections, the remains are described in broadly chronological order, corresponding to the conjectural sequence outlined above.

4.2 The hillfort and its immediate environs (see Figures 6 and 9)

Possible earlier enclosure

NGR: NT 9096 2951. NMR: NT 92 NW 112

George Jobey (1964, fig 8) identified what he cautiously interpreted as a palisade trench on the west side of the hillfort, roughly mid-way between the rampart and the bank of the outer enclosure. The short well-preserved stretch that he recorded survives as a ditch 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep, with a very slight bank running along its inner edge. Part of this stretch has been disturbed, perhaps to create a level platform for a building, described below as Structure 14). To the south, most of the earthwork has been erased by post-medieval ploughing (see below). However, a scarp that corresponds to the inner side of the ditch can be traced as far as the eastern side of the hillfort, following an arc that runs parallel to the line of the stone-built rampart. To the north of the stretch recorded by Jobey, minimal traces of the ditch seem to indicate that the earthwork may have run beneath the stone-built rampart, and that the course of the two may correspond almost precisely beyond this point. Indeed, there is a remote possibility that the quarry hollow behind the stone-built rampart, which extends around the northern side of the hillfort, was originally part of the external ditch of the earlier enclosure. In either case, the earthwork appears to be stratigraphically the earliest feature identified on the summit. The width and depth of the ditch, together with the presence of an internal bank, seem inconsistent with a palisade trench. Rather, their form and relationship to the stone-built rampart suggest an enclosure of similar size and plan to the hillfort. In contrast to the hillfort, however, the circuit of this possible early enclosure seems to have followed the contours of the summit fairly closely (see Figure 9).

The hillfort

NGR: NT 9096 2951. NMR: NT 92 NW 31

The main rampart of the hillfort encloses a nearly circular area of 0.28ha (0.69 acres), measuring 67m from north to south by 52m from west to east. Its course follows natural crests in places, but the circuit as a whole is remarkable for its pronounced 'tilt' across the contours, sloping downhill to the north so that the actual summit is only just enclosed (see Figure 9). Much of the rampart now survives as a broad spread of tumbled stones, which is for the most part overgrown with grass. The spread is 9.0m wide on average and up to 1.4m high externally, but generally less than 0.2m high internally; this is due to of the deliberate use of the natural slope to enhance the external height of the rampart. Only to the south of the entrance can the rampart actually be described as a bank, at that point standing to a maximum external height of 1.9m. Stretches of a single course of the external facing of the wall and isolated facing blocks survive *in situ* intermittently around much of the circuit (see Figure 7), but only a short stretch of the internal face is visible, on the south-east side. The distance between the two faces at this point indicates that the present spread of stone represents a tumbled dry stone wall originally 3.0m wide. Assuming that the outer face was about 2m high, and that the underlying natural slope is more or less constant, it can be estimated that between 515m³ and 927m³ of stone would have been required for its construction. Within this range, the quantity would obviously depend on whether the wall was built with the upper part as thick as the base, or with a narrower parapet standing on top of the broad base. Unlike the outer enclosure (see below), many of the facing blocks are large and most appear have been quarried or

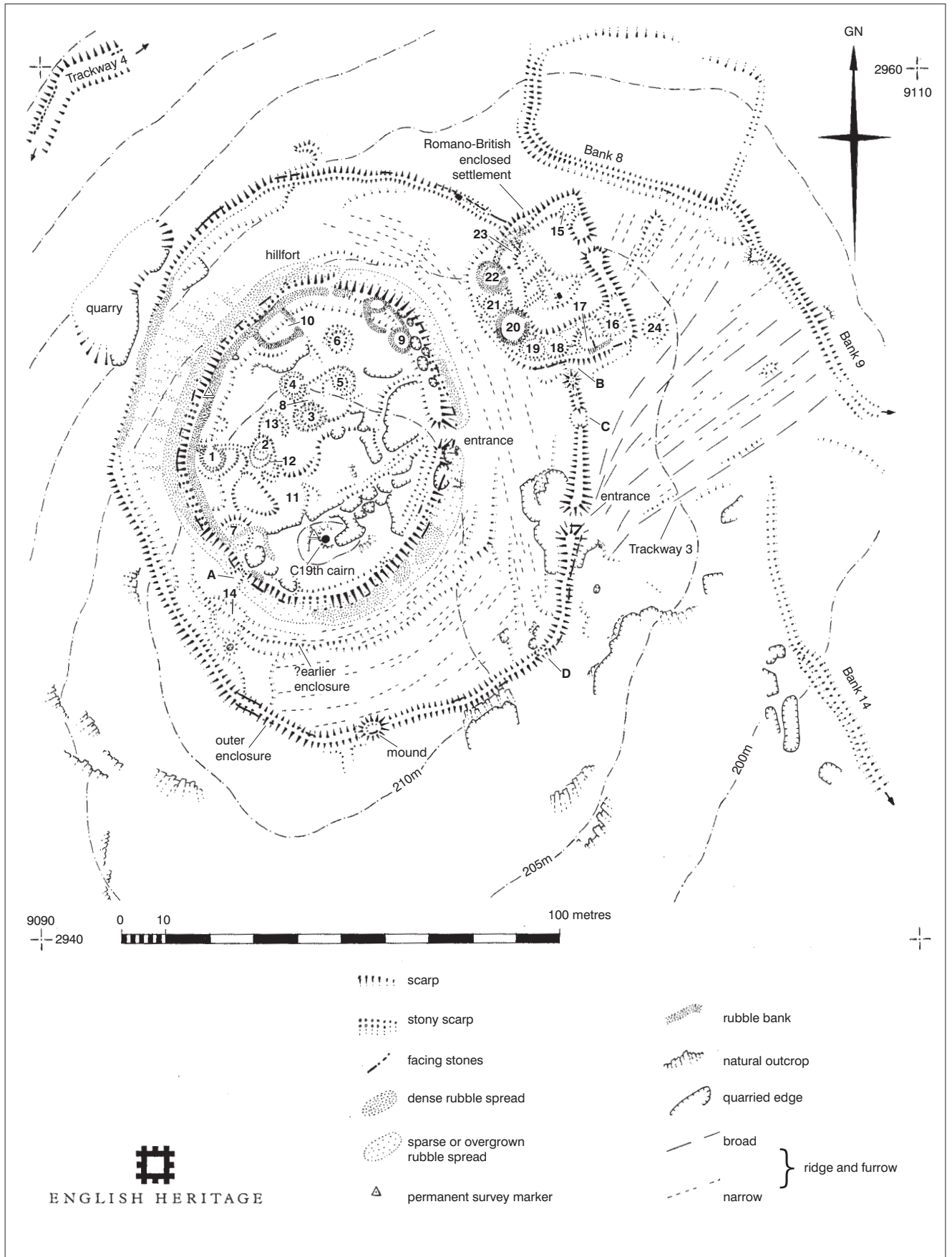


Figure 6. Plan of the hillfort and its immediate environs (reduced from 1:1000 scale)



*Figure 7.
Photograph of the
rampart on the
south-west of the
hillfort*

dressed. Most of the exposed lumps of stone in the core of the rampart are roughly fist-sized, and are generally sharp and unweathered, suggesting that they too were obtained by quarrying or splitting rather than the collection of boulders exposed on the surface. A continuous hollow running immediately behind the rampart, notably on the north and south-east sides of the circuit, probably results from quarrying. However, it is possible that the stretch on the northern side originally related to the possible earlier enclosure described above.

The entrance, oriented precisely due east, is a simple well-defined gap in the rampart, and has been recorded by previous investigators from MacLauchlan onwards. A few half-buried facing stones suggest that the width of the original passage would have been *c.*2.4m. No evidence for a timber gate structure can be identified on the surface, although one may be presumed to have existed. On the south-western side of the circuit (A on Figure 6), a section of the rampart has evidently been worn down. This partial gap may well have provided access to the structures in the interior described below, but is very unlikely to be an original entrance.

It has been suggested implicitly by previous investigators that the traces of the circular structures within the hillfort are of Iron Age date, but actually all but one seem more likely to be of Romano-British origin; they are therefore described below. They may well be contemporary with the construction of the outer enclosure. Importantly, much of the western side of the perimeter appears to have been rebuilt at some point after the collapse of the stone-built rampart. This modification appears to be contemporary with the construction of a number of the circular structures in the interior, and is therefore also described below. There is evidence that stone was robbed from the rampart, and that this too has affected its present appearance. Some of the large facing blocks appear to have been prised out of the ground, and on the eastern side of the circuit a series of shallow pits have been dug into the exterior of the bank of tumbled stone. The concentration of this activity adjacent to the Romano-British enclosed settlement suggests that much of the robbing may have taken place at broadly the same date as the construction of that settlement.

Structures within the hillfort

NGR: NT 9097 2951. NMR: NT 92 NW 113

Ten very probable and three possible structures (numbered 1 to 13 on Figure 6) were recorded within the rampart of the hillfort, and another possible structure (14) was identified immediately outside the circuit. As mentioned above, previous investigators have assumed the structures to be of Iron Age date, but two of the more securely identified structures demonstrably post-date the collapse or demolition of the rampart, and all but two of the rest are similar in form and seem likely to be contemporary. All these could conceivably have been in use at the same time, and were perhaps built at the same time as the outer enclosure, given that this too seems to have been built after the Iron Age rampart had collapsed or been demolished (see below). On balance, it seems probable that the buildings represent a Romano-British settlement, although two (9 and 10) may be of post-medieval origin.

Of the ten very probable structures, Structures 1 to 6 were depicted accurately on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map (1861) and Structures 3 to 5 were portrayed accurately by MacLauchlan (1867). George Jobey (1964, fig 8) identified Structures 7 to 10 in addition to those recorded by previous investigators, although he interpreted Structure 9 as disturbance of the rampart rather than as actual building remains. The evidence is slight for the remaining four possible structures (11 to 14) identified by English Heritage.

Structure 1 is circular, up to 4.8m in internal diameter, and is defined by a well preserved earth and stone bank up to 0.2m high. The entrance, which can be identified with confidence, is oriented almost due north. The structure was evidently built somewhat after the construction of the hillfort, for it overlies the quarry hollow behind the rampart, though this does not in itself rule out an Iron Age origin. More revealingly, a slight bank extends sideways from either side of the entrance: this runs eastwards to Structure 2, apparently defining one edge of a yard-like area, and westwards to join a low stony bank that follows the same line as the earlier rampart for a considerable distance. This bank, which is on average 1.4m wide and 0.2m high, contributes considerably to the present appearance of the rampart, but is evidently a later rebuild that overlies the collapsed rubble of the earlier rampart. In other words, Structure 1 (and Structure 2 by association) also post-dates the collapse or destruction of the rampart. The bank can be traced around the north-western half of the original perimeter of the hillfort, from a point near the original entrance on the

east to a point near the probable later entrance on the south-west (A). The bank seems unlikely to represent a tumbled wall, but may have supported a timber palisade or similar barrier.

Structure 2 is circular, c.5m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earth and stone bank up to 0.2m high at the north and a line of stones at the south. The entrance seems to have faced north or north-east. It is unclear whether Structure 12 genuinely represents a separate building (see below), or whether it is actually part of the rear wall of Structure 2. There are slight indications of a smaller adjoining structure on the south-east (not numbered on Figure 6), and the possible Structure 13 may have been an element of the same small compound.

Structure 3 is circular, 4.2m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earth and stone bank up to 0.2m high. The entrance, which can be identified with confidence, faced north-east, apparently into a compound some 9m square. Structures 5 and 8 also appear to have faced onto the same yard.

Structure 4 is circular, 4.6m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earth and stone bank up to 0.2m high. The entrance, which can be identified with confidence, faced north-east. Although the building adjoins the compound associated with Structures 3, 5 and 8, and appears to be structurally part of the same unit, its entrance lies outside the compound, suggesting that it may have been separate in social or functional terms.

Structure 5 is circular, 4.3m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earth and stone bank of minimal height. The entrance cannot be identified with confidence, but was probably oriented towards the south-west, into the compound associated with Structures 3 and 8.

Structure 6 is circular, 5.1m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earthen bank up to 0.2m high. The entrance cannot be identified with confidence, but was probably oriented to the south.

Structure 7 is circular, 5.2m in internal diameter, and is defined by an earth and stone bank up to 0.2m high. The entrance cannot be identified with confidence, but probably faced northwards or north-eastwards into a D-shaped yard-like area some 12m long by 7m wide. There are slight indications that the rear of the platform was cut into the tail of the rampart, although this need not in itself preclude a broadly contemporary origin. The remains of the original building are somewhat obscured by a low stony bank that diverges from the line of the rampart and passes through the middle of the circular structure. This could conceivably have been constructed soon after the abandonment of Structure 7, but is superficially similar to post-medieval activity.

Structure 8 is circular, 2.4m in internal diameter, and is defined primarily by the existence of Structures 3 and 4 on either side. The entrance was almost certainly oriented to the north-east, into the compound associated with Structures 3 and 8. The structure is even smaller than Jobey's depiction (1964, fig 8) would suggest, and it seems likely to have been an ancillary building.

Structure 9 is circular, 4.0m in internal diameter, and is defined by a stony bank of minimal height. The entrance cannot be identified with confidence, but was probably oriented to the north-west into a roughly oval yard-like area, also defined by a stony

bank, with an entrance on the south-west. On the opposite (north-western) side of the compound, there are slight traces of a second roughly circular structure *c.*3m in internal diameter (not numbered). The two structures and the intervening yard account for the extent of the main patch of 'disturbance' noted by Jobey (1964, fig 8) and may indeed be of much later date (perhaps post-medieval).

Structure 10 is a small rectangular pound adjoining the inner edge of the rebuilt perimeter of the hillfort. It is some 8m long by 6m wide, defined by a stony bank of minimal height, with a well defined entrance on the north-east. The pound was interpreted by Jobey (1964, fig 8) as part of the settlement in the interior of the hillfort, and this seems very likely. However, while it is certainly later in date than the hillfort, there are aspects of its form and condition which hint that it may be a much later addition, perhaps of medieval or later origin.

The existence of Structure 11 is suggested by an arc of bank, and by a level terrace of suitable dimensions to support a typical circular building. A narrow path (which does not appear to be of recent origin) leads from the original entrance into the hillfort towards the supposed site of the structure, but seems to turn abruptly as it reaches it.

As mentioned above, it is uncertain whether Structure 12 actually represents a building in its own right, or whether it is part of the outer face of the wall of Structure 2. Given that such a construction technique is not evident elsewhere on West Hill, it seems plausible that the semi-circular arc of stones may represent an earlier building in the same position as Structure 2. If so, the evidence would be consistent with a line of packing stones along a 'ring groove' (that is, a narrow slot dug to hold timber uprights). This construction technique and the use of timber rather than stone is generally accepted as being characteristic of the Iron Age.

The existence of Structure 13 is suggested by a low, but fairly prominent, arc of bank adjoining the northern side of Structure 2. Although the earthwork may represent a circular structure *c.*5m in diameter, it is also possible that it formed part of a yard or compound associated with Structure 2.

Structure 14 may have stood where a short stretch of the ditch of the putative earlier enclosure appears to have been infilled, and the adjacent bank has been slightly built up; in plan, this disturbance resembles a circular building platform some 6m in diameter. The site of the possible structure lies immediately outside the possible later entrance into the hillfort (A on Figure 6), and the two may have been associated with each other.

The outer enclosure

NGR: NT 9097 2951. NMR: NT 92 NW 113

The circuit of the outer enclosure is slightly oval in plan and is more or less concentric with the rampart of the hillfort, running at a distance of between 12m and 35m outside it. Consequently, at no point is there any direct stratigraphic relationship between the two that can be detected by earthwork survey, which might confirm whether or not the two are contemporary. While the northern half of the perimeter follows a smooth arc, the southern half comprises a series of straight lengths and therefore makes several pronounced changes of angle. The enclosure measures up to 125m from north to south by 105m from west to east, and defines an internal area of 0.74ha (1.83 acres) excluding the space occupied by the hillfort or 1.17ha (2.89 acres) including it.

The earth and stone bank that forms the perimeter is on average 3.5m wide and 0.4m high, with a slightly more prominent external face. On the north and north-west sides of the circuit, much of the material appears to have been dug from a shallow quarry hollow immediately inside the bank. On the south side, minimal traces of what may be a shallow external ditch were identified, extending for 10m across a natural eminence. On the north-west the bank is formed entirely by stones, in contrast to the rest of the circuit. Although the evidence is not clear-cut, this material seems to have been obtained from a tumbled mass of stones derived from the stone-built rampart immediately upslope. In other words, the outer enclosure seems - like the structures within the hillfort described below - to have been constructed after the collapse of the rampart. Around much of the circuit, discontinuous stretches of facing stones survive *in situ* along both the inner and outer edges of the bank. Most are weathered slabs of portable size, which are likely to have been cleared from the ground surface rather than quarried or split. Many are set on edge and would have served to retain the loose material of the core, but could not have formed the foundations of a wall.

One original entrance into the outer enclosure can be identified with confidence, and this has been recorded by previous investigators from HH MacLauchlan onwards. It is oriented almost precisely due east, but is off-set some 15m to the south of the entrance in the rampart of the hillfort. There is some evidence that stone was quarried from this area prior to the construction of the circuit, creating a level surface over which the earthwork was built. The entrance is flanked by straight sections of bank, which are typical in having more massive and slightly broader terminals, up to 7.5m wide and 1.2m high. The quarrying has the effect of making the earthworks appear somewhat larger in size, when seen from the exterior, than they actually are. On the exterior of the southern terminal, a larger stone may represent a fallen 'gatepost'. The entrance would originally have been about 2.5m wide, but appears to have been widened slightly at some point, perhaps in the 19th century, the spoil being cast up onto the northern terminal to form a low mound.

In three places to the south of the Romano-British enclosed settlement, the bank has been partially levelled, as Jobey (1964, fig 8) recorded. The most northerly of the three breaches, which was first recorded by MacLauchlan (**B** on Figure 6), lies immediately adjacent to the Romano-British enclosed settlement, and may well have been created at a broadly similar date. The bank has been almost completely dug away and the resulting spoil has been cast up to form a mound on top of the bank to the south, implying that the gap was deliberately levelled to allow access, rather than being worn away by use. A second major breach (**C** on Figure 6), which also appears to have been heavily worn down rather than deliberately dug away, lies directly opposite the gateway into the hillfort. Jobey's plan (*ibid*) suggests the existence of facing stones on either side of the gap, but there is nothing to indicate that it was ever formalised to this extent. The date of the damage is uncertain, but it may relate to the post-medieval agriculture within the outer enclosure. Mid-way between the two large breaches is a third, very minor gap, which appears much deeper on many aerial photographs than it is in reality. On the south-eastern side of the circuit (**D** on Figure 6), the size of the bank has been reduced by erosion, whether by humans or livestock is uncertain.

Two earthworks, which are described further below, have deliberately been built on top of the bank of the outer enclosure: a mound on the south and the Romano-British enclosed settlement on the north-east. The former has simply obscured a short length of the circuit, but the latter has almost erased the bank of the earlier enclosure over a distance of 34m within its perimeter. Although the surviving traces of the bank are

too slight to allow certainty, there appears to be a distinct misalignment in its supposed course immediately to the south of an upstanding outcrop of natural rock, at approximately the centre of the Romano-British enclosed settlement. Coupled with the fact that there is not the slightest hint of the existence of the bank at this point, it may be possible to infer that there was originally a second entrance into the outer enclosure and that this may have influenced the siting of the enclosed settlement.

The Romano-British enclosed settlement

NGR: NT 9102 2955. NMR: NT 92 NW 114

At first sight, it would appear that the small enclosed settlement was apparently deliberately sited so as to straddle the bank of the outer enclosure (Jobey 1964, 52), but the logic behind such placement does not stand up well to closer scrutiny. It seems more likely that the compound may originally have been confined behind the bank of the outer enclosure, perhaps so as to make use of a pre-existing entrance through the circuit as suggested above, and that it was subsequently extended forward. This supposed extension might have coincided with the creation of the secondary entrance through the outer enclosure (**B**). Whichever is the case, the eventual plan of the enclosure is D-shaped, with its straightest side and entrance lying outside the outer enclosure, oriented eastwards, and its gently curving rear side within the pre-existing circuit. The perimeter measures up to 38m wide from south-east to north-west by 34m from south-west to north-east, and encloses an area of 0.07ha (710m²). The bank of the outer enclosure was nearly erased as an earthwork within the enclosed settlement, but its line (or a palisade or hedge on the same line) evidently continued to sub-divide the interior of the compound into two halves, front and back. The bank at the front of the enclosure, outside the earlier circuit, is markedly more massive. Jobey (*ibid*, fig 8) noted that the principal structures are located in the back half (that is, within the earlier circuit), while most of the front half is taken up by yard-like areas. However, of the various earlier portrayals of all the structures, that of the Ordnance Survey (1861) most nearly depicts the actual arrangement.

The bank that defines the north-eastern front of the enclosure survives up to 6.0m wide and 0.9m high. A few upright stones on the exterior suggest that the earthwork probably originally had a stone revetment, perhaps only one course high, very similar to that of the outer enclosure, as Eric Geary commented in 1955 (NMRa). The core, where exposed in rabbit burrows, appears to be formed by a simple dump of earth and stone. The banks that define the sides of the compound outside the earlier enclosure are only slightly smaller than the front, and rabbit damage on the south (see Figure 10) has exposed a well preserved length of facing stones *in situ*. The bank that defines the sides and rear of the compound within the earlier enclosure diminishes to only 2.5m wide and 0.4m high on average, adding weight to the argument for the putative extension of the original area outlined above. Another difference is that there is little evidence for stone facing around the rear of the circuit, except on the southern side, alongside the entrance through the outer enclosure (**B**).

The entrance, marked by a gap 1.5m wide with what may be a 'gatepost' stone on the southern terminal, is set c.6m to the north of the mid-point of the front side, and is oriented north-eastwards. It gives access into a yard-like area some 14m by 8m, onto which opens a single room or structure (15), roughly 3m square, set within the thickness of the northern corner of the broad bank defining the front of the enclosed settlement. From the yard, the earthworks suggest that access could have been gained westwards into the rear half of the compound, or southwards into another yard-like

area. This southern yard is overlooked by a low terrace running inside the southern and western side of the enclosure, on which stand the remains of five structures (16 to 20), all facing onto the yard. Structure 16, like Structure 15, is set within the thickness of the corner of the bank. This area has been heavily disturbed by rabbits (see Figure 10), but the structure appears to have been roughly 4m square. Structure 17 was perhaps closer to being circular, but alignments of upright stones suggest the rear corners to have been nearly right-angled. The structure seems to have enclosed an area approximately 4m by 4m. Structure 18, which is defined by an intermittent earthwork of negligible height, appears to have been circular and approximately 5m in diameter. Structures 19 to 22 were the only ones recorded by Jobey. Structure 19, set against the south-western corner of the compound, is nearly circular, with a maximum diameter of 5.5m and a doorway facing north-north-east. Structure 20 is almost perfectly circular, 6.5m in diameter internally, with an entrance facing north-east. The perimeter is formed by a better defined and more obviously wall-like bank 0.9m wide, faced on both sides with upright stones. The footings of the bank appear to overlie the bank of the enclosure, and this suggests that Structure 20 was either rebuilt or was a later addition. Structures 21 to 23 appear to have looked onto a yard sub-divided from the rest of the compound by a low bank, which may have supported a palisade or hedge. Structure 21 is roughly rectangular, its rather irregular plan suggesting that it may have been either inserted between Structures 20 and 22 or constricted by them, if they were later additions. The rear side of the structure appears to have been damaged, perhaps by erosion or a pit dug to rob stone, but the front side is fairly intact, with an entrance facing north-east. Structure 22, like Structure 20 is more nearly circular, 6.0m in diameter internally, with an entrance facing north-east. The perimeter is formed by a better defined and more obviously structural bank 0.9m wide (see Figure 8). A groove describing an arc along the centre of part of the bank suggests that there may have been a timber element to the walls. Also like Structure 20, the relationship of the wall footings to the enclosure bank suggests that the structure was rebuilt or added at later date. A bank that joins the

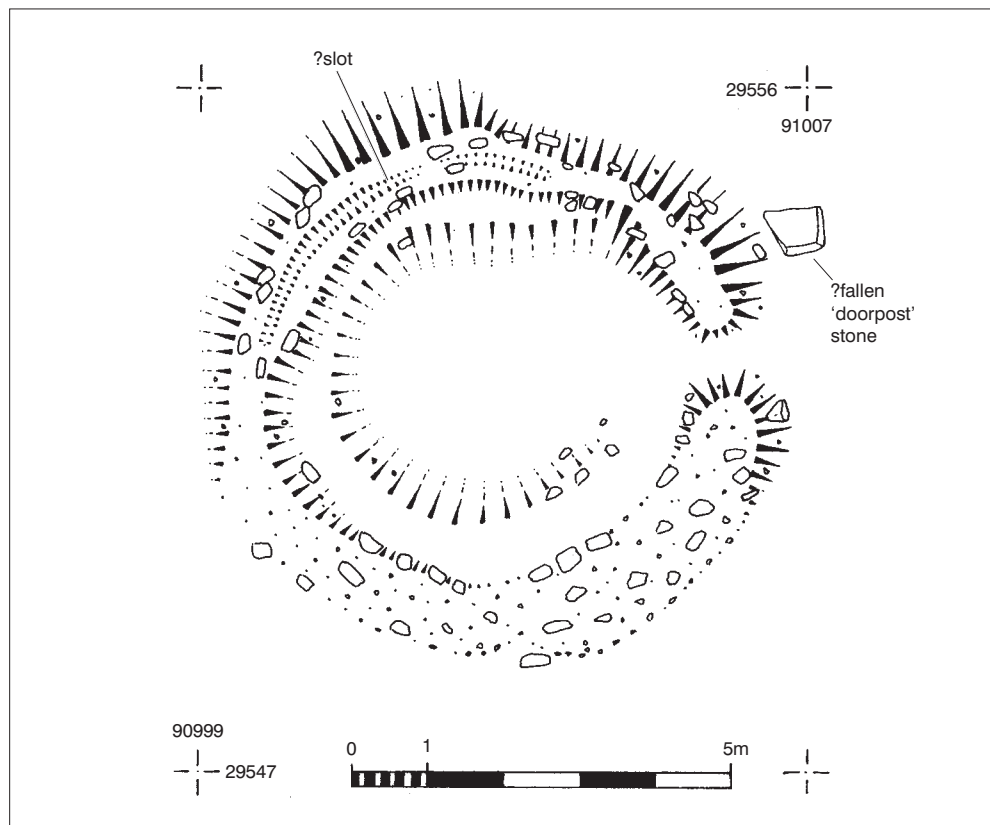


Figure 8.
Plan of Structure 22
(at 1:100 scale)

perimeter of the structure extends north-eastwards for some 10m, and seems to overlie the main bank enclosing the settlement. The site of Structure 23, whose existence is fairly conjectural, lies opposite Structure 22, backing onto the line of the bank of the earlier outer enclosure. Its existence is partly suggested by a near vertical face cut into the edge of a natural outcrop of granite. The site of Structure 24 lies immediately outside the south-eastern corner of the enclosed settlement. It is defined by a circular stance 5.5m in diameter, cut into the natural slope at the rear and terraced slightly at the front. The entrance was presumably on the downslope side, facing north-east. The earthwork has been cut into by ploughing (see below).

Although significant damage has been done to parts of the enclosed settlement by rabbit burrows, no sherds of pottery or other artifacts were noted in any of the upcast material, despite a thorough examination.

Outside the entrance of the enclosed settlement, a low bank-like mound 15m long lies on the same alignment as the later plough ridges, but evidently predates at least some of them. It is possible that this earthwork is associated with the enclosed settlement, but the relationship between the two has been confused by rabbit burrowing.

Mound

NGR: NT 90976 29448. NMR: NT 92 NW 115

On the south side of the outer enclosure, a roughly circular mound up to 7.5m in diameter and 0.4m high has been built directly on top of the enclosure bank. In conjunction with a natural knoll over which the circuit of the outer enclosure passes, and the height of the enclosure bank itself, the mound creates an elevated platform. On top of this, a series of upright stones and a vestigial earthwork suggest the existence of a small horseshoe shaped structure, 2.4m square, with its open end facing east. The possible functions of the structure are discussed in Section 5.

Small-scale quarrying

Numerous rock outcrops in the vicinity of the hillfort have evidently been subject to small-scale quarrying, usually involving little more than the exploitation of the natural fractures in the granite. This activity is impossible to date with confidence. However, the relative scarcity of later field boundaries on the summit suggests that much of the quarrying may have occurred as early as the Iron Age, especially taking into account the considerable quantities of stone that would have been needed to build the rampart. Within the hillfort, an outcrop has been cut back to a face up to 1.2m in height for a distance of some 20m. If the identification of the possible circular Structure 12 is correct, then this quarrying must be Romano-British in date at the latest, given that the structure occupies the level platform below the quarried face. Immediately inside the original entrance into the hillfort an area of some 180m² has a pitted and uneven appearance, which is suggestive of quite intensive quarrying; this too may have taken place in the Iron Age or Romano-British period.

Quarries

NGR: NT 9092 2955 and NT 9103 2963. NMR: NT 92 NW 137 and 138

The northern side of the outer enclosure surrounding the hillfort runs parallel to the upper lip of a quarry cut into the side of the hill, some 315m² in extent and up to 2.2m deep at its uphill face. The adjacent stretch of the bank of the outer enclosure is formed entirely by quarried stone (see above), and at first sight it might appear that this stone could have been obtained from the quarry, rather than from the tumbled material of the collapsed rampart as suggested above. However, the quarry appears to be one of two of similar size and form, both apparently served by Trackway 4, which runs a few metres downslope. The second quarry (NT 92 NW 138), which lies 130m to the north-east, and Trackway 4, are depicted on Figures 11 and 21. On the basis of evidence described in Section 4.3, Trackway 4 and both quarries may be of Romano-British or later origin, but are almost certainly not prehistoric. The quarry would clearly have provided much more material than would have been required to build the adjacent stretch of the bank of the outer enclosure alone, and weathered boulders were widely used as facing stones around the remainder of the circuit. Furthermore, even if the core of the bank was partly composed of quarried stone, it seems unlikely that the source of that material would have been located downslope.

Agricultural remains in the environs of the hillfort

In the immediate vicinity of the summit, there is no trace of 'cord rig' or other cultivation contemporary with the presumed Iron Age occupation of the hillfort. Three banks interpreted as field boundaries extend to within 50m of the outer enclosure, but do not come into direct contact with it. As a result, on the evidence of field survey it is only possible to infer their date from their relationship to other features in the landscape, which are discussed in Section 4.3. Although George Jobey described the best preserved bank and ditch (Jobey 1964, fig 8) as a 'late dyke' (that is, medieval or later), it may be of Romano-British or even earlier date (described in Section 4.3 as Banks 8 and 9). A bank of similar form (Bank 14) was apparently overlooked by Jobey, probably because the stretch nearest the perimeter has been levelled by broad ridge-and-furrow ploughing. Slight traces of this medieval and/or later cultivation were recorded immediately outside the outer enclosure and in the level area between its perimeter and the rampart of the hillfort.

In the area to the east of the outer enclosure, two phases of ploughing were identified. The earlier phase is characterised by slight ridges *c.* 4m wide that run from south-west to north-east, seemingly constricted between the bank of the outer enclosure and Banks 8 and 9, the so-called 'late dyke'. Some of the ends of the furrows exhibit the 'reverse S' characteristic of ploughing with oxen. In the later phase, the earlier ridges were sub-divided by even slighter furrows; these narrow ridges may have been in use in the post-medieval period.

In the level area between the bank of the outer enclosure and the rampart of the hillfort, faint traces of three small fields of narrow ridge-and-furrow were identified. The limit of the cultivation is generally defined by more prominent scarps up to 0.3m high, but on the southern side of the hillfort, the ploughing extends beyond these scarps, hinting that the ground may have been disturbed on more than one occasion. The regularity of the width of the ridges – on average 2.5m wide – and sheer determination to break even steep slopes and very unprofitable ground suggest that the ploughing, or at least the latest phase of ploughing, may have taken place in the

19th century. This final episode was probably not intended to allow the cultivation of crops, but rather to disturb the topsoil in order to improve the quality of the pasture for grazing, as part of a more extensive pattern of land improvement (see Section 4.4). The ploughing was probably not intensive or long-lasting but may well have destroyed any traces of occupation inside the outer enclosure, along with any traces of earlier cultivation (see Figure 10).

19th century cairn

NGR: NT 90966 29492. NMR: NT 92 NW 116

The position of a small cairn up to 1.2m in diameter and 0.8m high on the summit corresponds to the site of an Ordnance Survey triangulation point shown on the First and Second Edition 25-inch maps (Ordnance Survey 1861; 1897). Where pillars were not constructed, it was common practice to cover the marker with a cairn to protect it and facilitate its relocation.

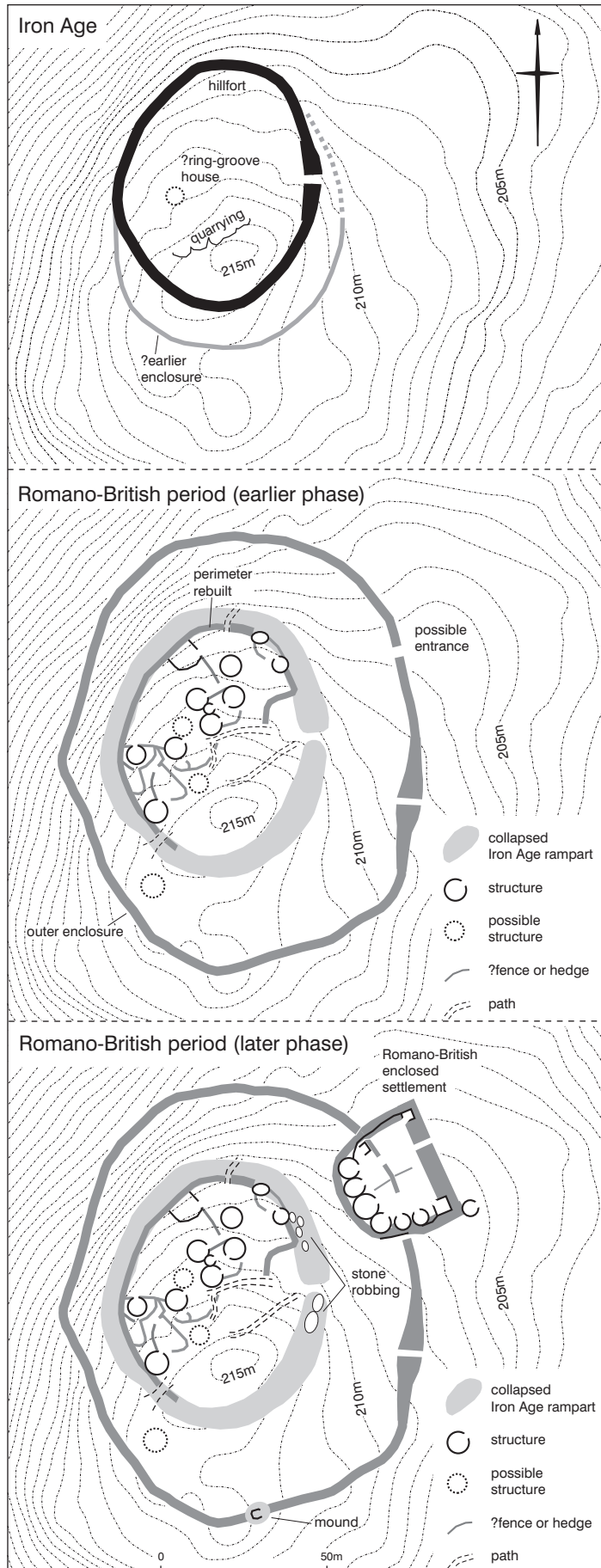


Figure 9.
Interpretative plans
of the hillfort and
its immediate
environs

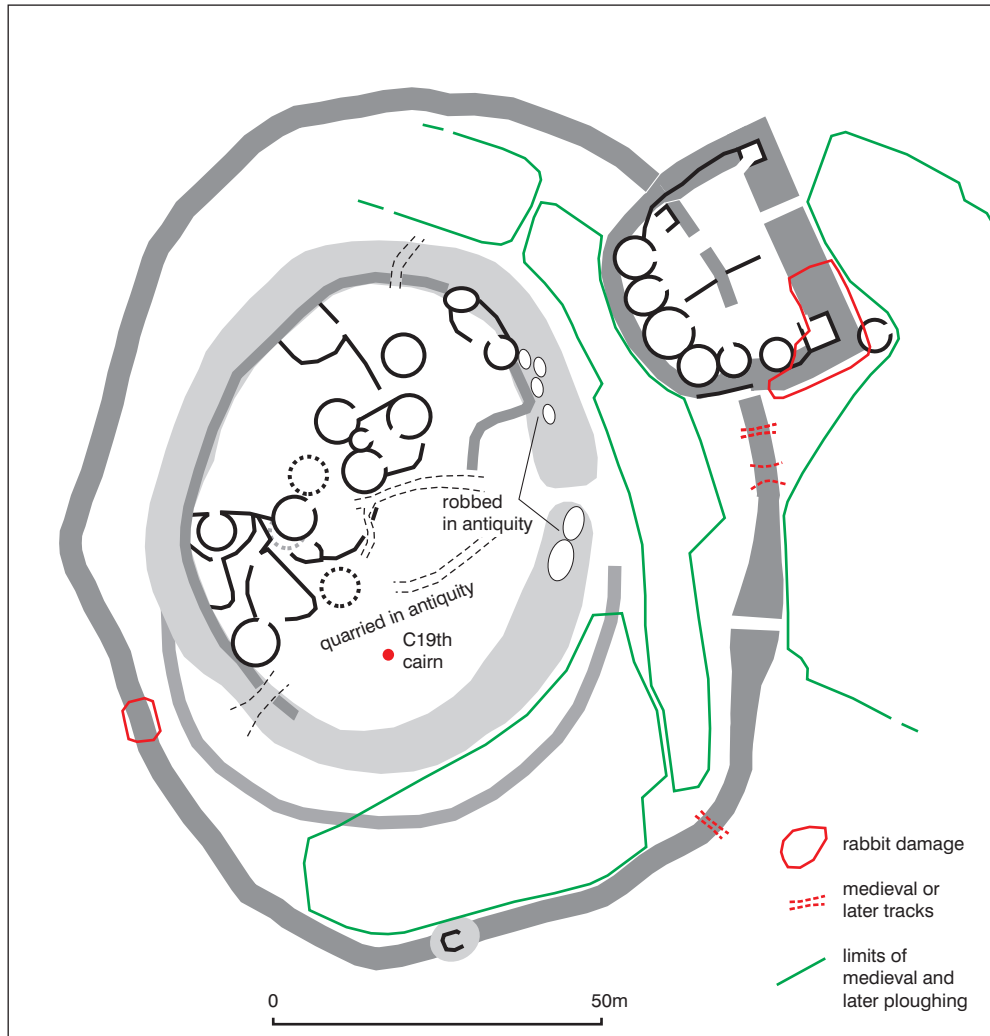
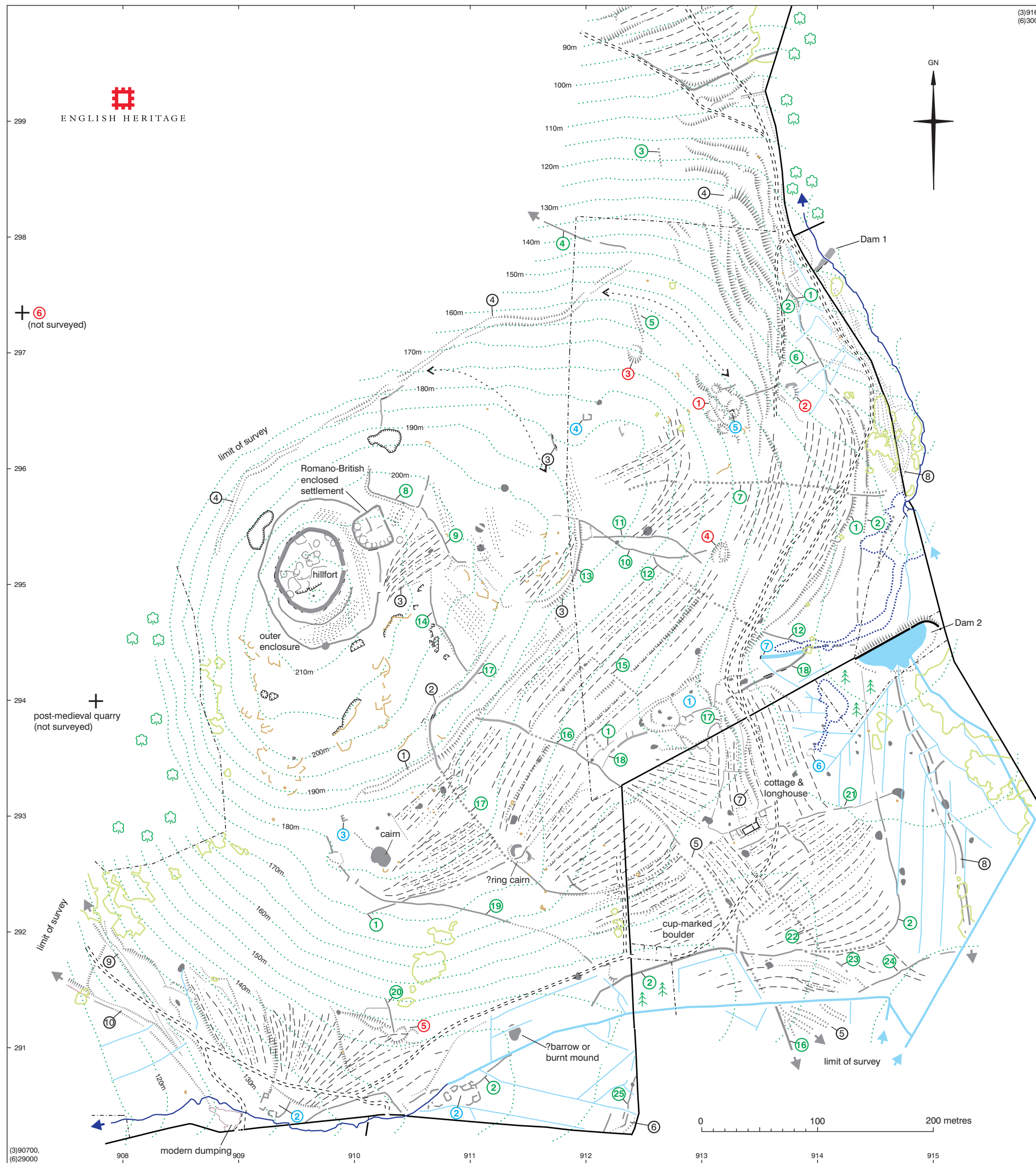


Figure 10.
The condition of
the hillfort and its
immediate environs



KEY

- NATURAL FEATURES**
- Contours (at 5m intervals)
 - Boulders and outcropping rock
 - Stream
 - Limit of boggy ground
 - Gorse
 - Deciduous woodland
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**
- Clearance cairns
 - Field banks (stone-faced, indistinct)
 - Scooped settlements
 - Trackways
 - Miscellaneous structures
 - Scarps
 - Quarrying
 - Broad ridge-and-furrow
 - Narrow ridge-and-furrow
 - Improvement ploughing (indication of direction)
 - Field walls
- MODERN FEATURES**
- Fences
 - Drainage channels or pipe drains (upcast material not shown)
 - Tracks
 - Coniferous plantation

Figure 11:
Plan of the landscape around the hillfort
(reduced from 1:2500 scale)

4.3 The landscape around the hillfort (prehistoric and Romano British periods - see Figure 11)

Cup-marked boulder (see Figure 12)

NGR: NT 91256 29201. NMR: NT 92 NW 117

At the southern-eastern foot of West Hill, overlooking the watershed between the two minor tributary streams, lies a cup-marked boulder. This form of 'rock art' remained current for a considerable period from the later Neolithic into the early Bronze Age. The boulder is about 90cms square and 60cms deep, and is potentially 'portable'; that is, it could have been moved to its present position from elsewhere. It retains a deep salmon-pink colour, which distinguishes it from the predominantly grey stones in the

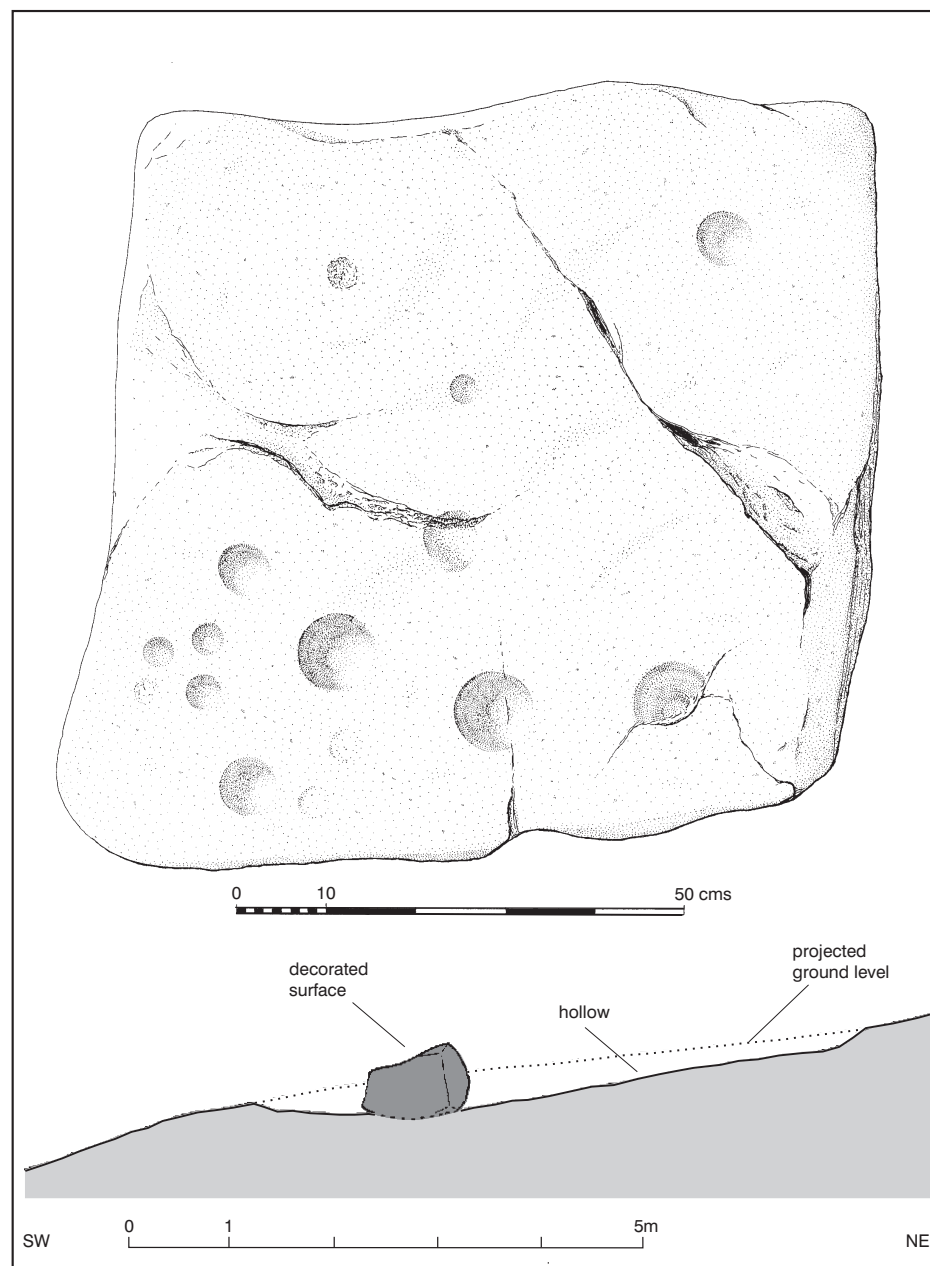


Figure 12.
Drawing of the
cup-marked boulder
(reduced from
1:4 scale)

surrounding area. The decorated upper surface is slightly concave and is inclined approximately south-westwards, clearly suggesting that it was meant to be seen from the lower ground in that direction. The boulder rests on the surface at the centre of a hollow, discussed further below, and it seems likely that if it is *in situ*, the original ground level would have been almost flush with the lower edge of the decorated surface (see profile in Figure 12). Seen from the south-west, the decoration comprises an arc of four large cup-marks across the lower half of the stone, spaced at fairly regular intervals up to 10cms apart, the depressions ranging from 6.5cms to 8.5cms in diameter and up to 1.2cms deep. One certain and one possible outlying cup-mark of similar size are set radially to the arc. At least three smaller cup-marks, all c.3cms in diameter and up to 0.4cms deep, form a triangle (or perhaps a diamond) in the lower left corner of the stone. There may have been an outlying cup-mark of the same size near the centre of the decorated surface. Near the upper right corner is a single isolated cup-mark c.5.5cms in diameter. Other marks cannot be interpreted as being artificial with confidence.

The survival of the boulder, resting on the surface in an area that was evidently subject to intensive arable cultivation in the medieval period and perhaps earlier, is worthy of comment. The hollow that surrounds the boulder may also be relevant in this context. It is possible that the depression was merely worn down by livestock, but there is generally little sign of comparable erosion around the other boulders that are scattered across the slope. Furthermore, there are a few small lumps of loose stone lying in the hollow immediately around the decorated boulder. It therefore seems possible that the boulder may be *in situ*, and that it acted as a focus for the development of a clearance cairn later in prehistory, which was doubtless augmented in the medieval period. The hollow surrounding the boulder may result from the removal of all the overlying stones in the earlier 19th century to build the nearby field walls. If so, it would seem that the decorated boulder was left because it was too large to be easily moved, or perhaps because the rock-art was recognised and deliberately preserved by the labourers.

Possible barrow or 'burnt mound' (see Figure 13)

NGR: NT 9114 2911.

NMR: NT 92 NW 118

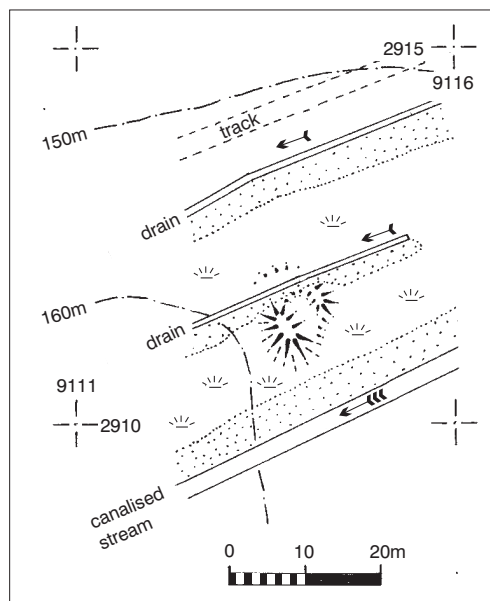


Figure 13.
Plan of the
possible barrow
or 'burnt mound'
(at 1:1000 scale)

On the valley floor overlooking the minor tributary stream to the south of West Hill lies a roughly oval earthwork, formed by two conjoining mounds of differing size resting on a raised platform up to 13.0m in overall diameter. The present course of the stream follows an artificially cut channel, probably dug in the late 19th century or more recently, but the area remains very boggy, and it seems likely that any natural watercourse would originally have flowed within a few metres of the mound. A second drainage channel, also probably dug in recent times, cuts through the northern edge of

the earthwork. The larger mound combines with the smaller to form a horseshoe-shaped bank up to 0.7m high around a more level central area, with the open side facing towards the stream. If this represents the original form of the earthwork, its plan, together with its siting in relation to the stream, would suggest it to be a so-called 'burnt mound'. On excavation, such mounds generally prove to comprise masses of small chips of burnt stone, often in close proximity to a sunken trough, sometimes lined with timber. These features are thought to represent the residue of Bronze Age 'sweat houses' (that is, saunas) or large cooking hearths (Buckley 1990; Hodder and Barfield 1991). Alternatively, it may be that the central level area is the result of stone-robbing or looting; a mound of this size in a more regular form could be consistent with a later Neolithic or early Bronze Age funerary monument.

Possible ring cairn

NGR: NT 9114 2927. NMR: NT 92 NW 119

A low bank that forms a small oval ring occupies the side of a natural rise at the edge of the plateau on the southern side of West Hill. This 'ring bank', which may be a type of prehistoric funerary cairn, measures 13m from south-west to north-east by 19m from north-west to south-east. Bank 1, which appears to be one of the earliest field boundary banks (see below) bisects the earthwork, making a pronounced turn at its central point; Bank 17, which passes immediately to the west of the ring bank, appears to deviate slightly to avoid it. This suggests that the ring bank is of relatively early origin and may imply that it was still recognised as a monument of some significance when the field banks were laid out. However, it also seems likely that the ring bank was subject to later modification: the north-western half is much more prominent, standing to 0.4m high, and has an external ditch, which is more rectilinear in plan than the curving bank. In contrast, the south-eastern half of the ring bank has evidently been disturbed and much reduced in size. The modification of the north-western half effectively forms a small enclosure, possibly for penning livestock, against the side of Bank 1. It is uncertain at what date this may have occurred, but the medieval period seems possible.

Cairn

NGR: NT 9102 2927. NMR: NT 92 NW 120

A large oval mound occupies the plateau that forms the south-western shoulder of West Hill. The mound, which measures up to 17.5m in diameter and 1.1m high, is predominantly formed by a natural outcrop of granite that is exposed at several points across its surface. However, a considerable quantity of loose stone has been added to the natural feature, giving it a fairly regular domed profile. There are several smaller cairns in the vicinity which are likely to result from the clearance of the ground for agriculture, as discussed below, and this seems the most plausible interpretation for the presence of the loose stone. However, given the size and unusual prominence of the mound, it is possible that the natural feature may have been enhanced in order to create a funerary monument.

Early field system: clearance cairns, cultivation terraces and field banks

NGR: NT 911 294. NMR: NT 92 NW 121

On the southern slopes of West Hill, the fieldwork identified some thirty roughly circular mounds of loosely packed portable boulders and smaller stones, which are in many cases piled up around larger immovable boulders. The largest mounds are up to 6m in diameter and 0.8m high, and some are entirely grassed over. The smallest comprise scatters of small fragments of rock, or occasionally two or three large stones in close proximity to each other. In many instances, the appearance of these smaller examples is almost certainly the outcome of later stone robbing to obtain material for field walls, presumably at various times between the medieval period and the 19th century. As noted above, the cup-marked boulder may have been subject to this process of burial and later robbing. Excavation in Northumberland and elsewhere in England has shown that funerary cairns occasionally acted as focuses for later field clearance, and that burials were sometimes inserted into established field clearance cairns (Jobey 1981; Leach 1983; Barnatt 1994). However, none of the



*Figure 14.
Photograph of
field clearance
cairns to the
south-east of
West Hill*

examples collectively referred to in this report as field clearance cairns shows any positive signs of having been carefully structured, and it seems probable that most, if not all, can be fairly securely interpreted as the straightforward products of field clearance for agriculture.

On the more gentle lower slopes and the saddle to the south-east of the hill, many of the cairns are scattered in a fairly haphazard arrangement, but on the steeper slopes, a few appear to be buried within cultivation terraces. This need not be interpreted as two entirely separate phases of agriculture, but rather the outcome of the gradual accumulation of ploughsoil and cleared stones year by year over a long period. In total the area covered by clearance cairns and early cultivation terraces together can be estimated to be around 12ha. While many of the terraces were ploughed over in the medieval period (see below), it is likely that stone continued to be removed from the fields and added to the established cairns.

Cultivation terraces were recorded on the lower slopes of the hill, on its south-western, south-eastern and north-eastern sides. More terraces were identified on the northern slopes, but were not surveyed in detail. Some, particularly on the south-eastern and northern sides of the hill, follow the natural contours fairly closely, while others on the south-western and north-eastern slopes run at a slightly oblique angle across the contours. It is unclear whether this difference in alignment corresponds to a difference in the date at which the terraces were used and/or the available technology, or whether it was simply a slightly different response to the terrain. The downslope faces of the largest terraces stand up to 1.6m high, and most are more than 0.6m high, this variation partly reflecting the steepness of the natural slope. Most are between 60m and 100m in length and define relatively level areas at least 4m wide. The orientation of some of the terraces evidently influenced the direction of medieval and later ridge-and-furrow ploughing, but almost all were ploughed over at some point.

In some instances, the early cultivation terraces appear to be associated with banks interpreted as field boundaries. Those banks that may be of relatively early origin are numbered 1 – 25 on Figure 11; those that are more probably medieval or later are discussed in Section 4.4. Where they have not been degraded by medieval and later cultivation, the early banks are generally of earth and stone, 1m to 2m wide and up to 0.4m high; a few are intermittently faced by boulders set on edge. There are a number of clear-cut stratigraphic relationships between the banks and the terraces, the scooped settlements and the trackways, which, taken together, suggest that many of the boundaries were laid out in the Romano-British period. However, it is also clear from the relationships between the field boundaries themselves that not all can have been laid out in a single constructional episode, but must have been built, remodelled and abandoned over a considerable period. All predate the encroachment of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

Bank 1 extends from a point on the valley side east of the hill in a gentle curve for at least 750m to a point on the valley side south of the hill. The south-western end of the bank does not have a clearly defined terminal, but is effectively continued by a steep natural slope. The northern end is more uncertain, partly because it was apparently incorporated into the course of the later Bank 2, but its line probably followed the lowermost of the cultivation terraces on the valley side. By following the contours along the foot of the hillside, the bank seems to have defined a topographic unit. Bank 1 may be contemporary with Bank 15, which approaches it at right angles, but the intersection of the two has been so severely degraded by later cultivation that no trace

of the latter survives at this point. It was apparently constructed before Banks 2, 6, 7, 12, 16, 17 and 19.

The northernmost stretch of Bank 2 seems to have followed the course of the earlier Bank 1 for at least 120m before diverging and running southwards along a sinuous course for a further 450m to the mid-point of the watershed between the two minor tributary streams. There, it curves sharply through a right angle to head westwards for *c.*430m. At its south-western end, it apparently terminated near the original head of the stream to the south of the hill (that is, its natural head prior to the extension and canalization of the upper stretch of the watercourse). Bank 2, like the earlier Bank 1, thus defines an extensive topographic unit around the southern and eastern sides of West Hill. The eastern stretch seems deliberately to echo the line of the adjacent tributary stream at an average distance of around 40m, as though to allow access up the valley. Bank 2 appears to be later than Bank 1, and perhaps Banks 15 and 23, and broadly contemporary with Banks 6, 7, 12, 16, 18 and 19, some of which join it at approximately right angles, and terminate on its line. The exception is Bank 7, which continues for at least 15m further. On the north side of Bank 7, a 2m wide gap in Bank 2, together with a slight depression interpreted as a hollowed trackway, is suggestive of an original entrance into the bounded area. It may be significant that this point corresponds precisely with the southern end of the steep-sided channel cut by the minor stream; that is, the most northerly point at which there is easy access across the watercourse.

Bank 3 is a slight earthen bank, not certain to be artificial origin, which can be traced for only 10m running down the north-eastern slope of the hill. It lies near the western end of a series of cultivation terraces, but has no discernible stratigraphic relationship to them or any other archaeological feature. Although there is insufficient evidence to infer any date with confidence, the degraded condition of the earthwork may indicate a relatively early origin; if this is the case, the bank may once have connected with Bank 1 or 2.

Bank 4 extends westwards away from the edge of Trackway 4 for at least 100m; the full extent of the earthwork was not recorded in detail. The excellent preservation of the bank would seem to suggest that it was built in the medieval period or later, but it appears to be contemporary with Trackway 4, and by association with Bank 8, which may indicate that it is of Romano-British or earlier origin.

Bank 5, which has a quarry hollow along its uphill side, runs roughly northwards from Scooped Settlement 3 for *c.*30m. Due to the effects of 19th-century improvement ploughing, no precise relationship between the settlement and the fragment of bank can be discerned, but it seems reasonable to suppose that the two are of broadly contemporary date.

Bank 6 begins immediately downslope from Scooped Settlement 1 and extends eastwards for 70m down the eastern side of the hill, passing close to Scooped Settlement 2, eventually joining Bank 1 or 2 at right angles and ending there (see Figure 15). Its relationship to the scooped enclosures suggests that it is of broadly contemporary origin, and it clearly overlies all the cultivation terraces along its line. However, the precise relationship with Bank 1 or 2 is less secure; although at first glance the plan relationship would suggest that the two boundaries are broadly contemporary, Bank 6 is considerably more stony in composition and actually appears to overlie the quarry hollow upslope of Bank 1 or 2. In other words, Bank 6

must have been constructed while Bank 1 or 2 was still functioning as a boundary, but may have been added at a somewhat later date.

Bank 7 begins at an indistinct point on the higher slopes of the eastern side of the hill and extends eastwards for 220m, intersecting with Bank 2 at a right angle and continuing for 15m further. As described above, this intersection coincides with the most northerly point at which there is easy access across the stream, and there was probably an entrance through Bank 2 at this point. Bank 7 appears to overlie Bank 1, and appears to be closely contemporary with Bank 2. Only short stretches at either end are well preserved; the central section has been degraded by broad ridge-and-furrow ploughing to a low spread up to 8m wide.

Bank 8, referred to by Jobey (1964, fig 8) as a 'late dyke' (that is, of medieval or later date), may actually be of relatively early origin. The bank, which is intermittently faced with boulders set on edge, is unusual in having a pronounced ditch on its uphill side for some of its length (see Figure 6); in places this was clearly cut into the granite bedrock. The bank appears to have enclosed a roughly rectangular compartment some 100m long from north to south by 50m wide, although only parts of the eastern and northern sides can be traced. A low scarp running across the width of the compartment is too slight to be termed a cultivation terrace, but may well have marked the northern limit of some form of ploughing. The bank on the western side of the compartment appears to be interrupted by one of the two quarries mentioned in Section 4.2, but the stratigraphic relationship is somewhat ambiguous. The bank on the northern side of the compartment follows the southern edge of Trackway 4, suggesting that the two are broadly contemporary with each other. Bank 9 appears to have been joined to the south-eastern corner of the compartment at some later date, although presumably while it was still in use as a boundary. Both banks appear to predate the broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation to their south-west, which appears to be awkwardly confined between them and the bank of the outer enclosure around the hillfort, as noted in Section 4.2.

Bank 9 joins the south-eastern corner of the compartment enclosed by Bank 8, and runs south-eastwards from the junction for *c.*50m before turning to run eastwards for at least 45m further. Like Bank 8, Bank 9 evidently had a ditch on its uphill side, though the surviving traces are much slighter. As noted above, the relationship with Bank 8 suggests that Bank 9 was probably added while the earlier boundary was still in use, and both boundaries appear to predate broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation. The alignment of the eastern stretch of the bank corresponds to that of the western end of Bank 11, and it is possible that the two are parts of the same boundary. Some 12m south of the junction with Bank 8, a pronounced kink in the line of Bank 9 corresponds with the position of a natural outcrop. However, the alignment of the northern stretch of Bank 14 suggests that the two may have intersected at this point, prior to the levelling of much of Bank 14 by later agriculture. If so, the two banks would seem to be closely contemporary. To the north-west of the supposed intersection, on the western side of Bank 9, a shallow circular scoop may represent an isolated house platform, but the damage done by later cultivation precludes certainty.

Bank 10 runs in a meandering curve from the uphill side of Scooped Settlement 4 westwards to an indeterminate point on the eastern slope of the hill. The western end of the boundary, which is relatively narrow and slight in comparison to the rest of the bank, appears to overlie Trackway 3. However, this can probably be interpreted as a later modification, for the eastern end of the bank is overlain by Bank 11, which respects the line of the trackway. In its original form, the boundary may have been

part of, or re-used the line of, Bank 12. Thus, in its initial form, the boundary would appear to be broadly contemporary with Scooped Settlement 4, later than Trackway 3 and Bank 12, but earlier than Bank 11.

Bank 11 extends at right angles away from Bank 13, which follows the eastern side of Trackway 3, and runs eastwards for 110m, turning so as to descend the steeper slope less obliquely. Its eastern end, which is very indistinct, seems to lie within 10m of Scooped Settlement 4, but there is no clear relationship between the two. The bank appears to be broadly contemporary with Bank 13, and later than Bank 10. Based solely on its similar alignment, it is possible that Bank 9 represents a westward continuation of the same boundary.

Bank 12 runs in a fairly straight line down the gentle south-eastern slope of West Hill, extending for *c.*260m from north-west to south-east. Much of the central section of the earthwork has been reduced by medieval and later ploughing to a low spread up to 6m wide, into which some of the furrows have cut pronounced steps (see Figure 16). The bank overlies and therefore post-dates Bank 1. The western end may have abutted Trackway 3, as described above, and the eastern end probably joined Bank 2 at right angles and ended on its line, although the precise point of their intersection has been obscured by erosion, vegetation and the construction of the 19th-century dam. The bank thus appears to be later than Bank 1, but broadly contemporary with Bank 2 and Trackway 3. It appears to have been built somewhat earlier than Bank 18, which bends quite sharply to join it at right angles, but the two must have been in use at the same time.

Bank 13 follows the south-eastern side of Trackway 3 for 100m. It is probably contemporary with the trackway and with Bank 11, and perhaps with Banks 9, 17 and the initial phase of Bank 10. However, it is earlier than the later phase of Bank 10, which overlies the trackway.

Bank 14 extends north-westwards from the northern side of Trackway 3 for *c.*50m, before bending gently and heading northwards for at least 40m further. Beyond this point, the earthwork has been levelled by later cultivation, but there is a small clearance cairn on the same alignment. The line of the surviving earthwork, together with the position of the cairn, suggest that the bank may originally have extended as far as a natural outcrop onto which Bank 9 makes a pronounced kink, where the two boundaries may have intersected. Like Banks 8 and 9, Bank 14 has traces of a ditch on its western side. Thus, Bank 13 seems to be broadly contemporary with Trackway 3 and with Bank 9.

Bank 15 runs in a fairly straight line down the gentle south-eastern slope of West Hill, extending for *c.*90m from north-west to south-east. Sections of the earthwork have been entirely ploughed away, and even the surviving remnants have been reduced by medieval and later ploughing to low spreads up to 8m wide. The bank has no discernible stratigraphic relationship to any of the other boundaries.

Bank 16 extends from the southern side of Trackway 1, at the foot of the steep natural scarp on the south-eastern side of the hill, in a gentle curve for at least 450m across the watershed to a point on the opposite side of the valley. Its northern half is well preserved, for it evidently served as a headland for two medieval fields and was only ploughed over in one or two places. Towards its southern end, a stretch 110m long stretch has been reduced by ploughing to a low spread up to 4m wide, having perhaps been converted into a cultivation ridge. At its southernmost end, the boundary

survives extremely well as a broad bank up to 0.5m high; it was traced for at least 50m beyond the southern limit of the measured survey before gorse scrub obscured it entirely. At the point of the intersection of Trackway 1 and the Bank 16, the trackway turns downslope, possibly to join up with Trackway 5 if it followed the course of the field boundary, which would suggest that the two are broadly contemporary. Bank 16 probably predates Bank 17, given that Bank 17 blocks Trackway 1. Bank 16 would appear to be broadly contemporary with Bank 22, which joins it at right angles. The relationship of the bank to Banks 2, 23 and 24 is unclear, but line of the bank on either side of the junction with Bank 2 is slightly off-set, hinting that Bank 16 may be a somewhat later addition.

Bank 17 appears to have enclosed an irregular, perhaps sub-circular, area to the south of Trackway 2. Its total length is at least 540m. It extends along the southern edge of Trackway 2, with which it is presumably closely contemporary, and may represent a continuation of Bank 13, which similarly runs along the south-eastern edge of Trackway 3. It appears to be broadly contemporary with Bank 14, which joins the northern side of Trackway 2 at right angles. It overlies Bank 1 and Trackway 1, and therefore probably postdates Bank 16 and perhaps Bank 18.

Bank 18 extends in a fairly straight line for 200m, approximately from west to east, between Bank 16 and Bank 12, intersecting with both at right angles. The plan relationship would seem to indicate that Bank 18 was a slightly later addition, but that it was added while Banks 16 and 12 were still in use. Along with the adjacent section of Bank 1, Bank 18 appears to have defined the sides of the linear series of livestock pens referred to as Miscellaneous 1. A stretch of the bank some 20m in length is much broader and has been revetted carefully by massive boulders; the reason for this is unclear. In 1955, Eric Geary's field investigation for the Ordnance Survey concluded that this was one of the 'robbed homesteads' alleged to exist by Sir Walter de la Aitchison (NMR b). However, it seems slightly more likely that Aitchison had identified elements of the arrangement of livestock pens (see Section 4.4).

Bank 19 begins at the foot of the steep natural scarp on the southern side of the hill, and extends south-eastwards in a gentle curve for 290m, running obliquely down the slope. At its eastern end, it turns slightly to merge smoothly with Bank 2, with which it appears to be contemporary. It clearly overlies Bank 1.

Bank 20 extends for 32m northwards up the steep slope to the north of Scooped Settlement 5. The precise relationship of the field boundary to any structures that may have stood on the platforms is uncertain, but it is reasonable to suppose that the two are broadly contemporary. The boundary is presumably contemporary with the small enclosure to the north of Scooped Settlement 5, but has no stratigraphic relationship to any of the other banks.

Bank 21 extends for 110m eastwards from the medieval longhouse (see Section 4.4) and evidently served as a boundary between two of the open fields associated with the farmstead. However, an earlier origin is not impossible, for the bank extends for *c.* 15m beyond the eastern limit of medieval cultivation, intersecting with Bank 2 at right angles and terminating on a large cairn. This appears to be one of several in the vicinity that are not of post-medieval date, suggesting that there was indeed some degree of agriculture in the vicinity prior to the encroachment of medieval ploughing. The stratigraphic relationship with Bank 2 is unclear.

Bank 22 extends at right angles from the east side of Bank 16; Bank 22 is presumably a somewhat later addition, but broadly contemporary with the use of Bank 16. Bank 22 runs north-eastwards for 40m before turning sharply through a right angle and running for a further 50m towards Bank 2. It is unclear whether it continued beyond Bank 2 at some stage, and whether Bank 23 may represent part of the same feature, or whether it enclosed a small field at the junction of Banks 2 and 16.

Bank 23 is very poorly preserved, but can be traced intermittently running in a gentle curve for *c.*100m. At its eastern end, it intersects with Bank 24, but the condition of both earthworks is too degraded to allow adequate interpretation of the stratigraphic relationship between them. The boundary joins Bank 2 and the two appear to have followed the same course for 25m. A small clearance cairn appears to mark the eastern junction between the two. There is a hint in the line of Bank 2 that its course deviates very slightly to incorporate Bank 23, which may indicate that the latter was already in existence.

Bank 24 extends for at least 90m approximately from west to east. To the west, its course has been destroyed and obscured by post-medieval drainage channels, and it could not be traced any further eastwards than the main drainage ditch that defines the limit of the measured survey in this area. Although it intersects with Bank 23, the stratigraphic relationship between the two remains uncertain.

Bank 25 was traced for a total of 40m, running northwards from the southernmost limit of the survey area. There is a small cairn on the line of the bank, but it is unclear whether this results from clearance for agriculture or the improvement of the track itself. To the south, beyond the limit of survey, the earthwork has been entirely erased by modern ploughing and its course cannot be traced further on the available aerial photographs. To the north, it has been damaged by ploughing and afforestation, and could not be traced beyond the limit of the survey area. There is a slight possibility that the bank represents a continuation of Bank 23 or 24, but the intervening area has been too heavily disturbed to allow certainty. Trackway 6 may have followed the eastern side of the boundary.

Romano-British trackways (see Figure 11)

A number of early trackways or droveways, numbered 1 to 6 on Figure 11, were identified in the landscape around West Hill. Most are 2m to 3m wide, slightly hollowed through use, and are in some cases embanked on one or both sides. The embankments are intermittently faced with boulders set on edge, and may originally have supported hedges. One of the trackways seems to have made use of a pre-existing cultivation terrace, while others are demonstrably contemporary with some of the field banks described above. Taking into account all the available evidence, the association of Trackway 3 with the outer enclosure on the summit would seem to confirm that Trackways 1 to 4 are probably all of broadly Romano-British origin. Those that are interpreted as being of medieval or later date are discussed separately below. However, the Romano-British trackways may have been in use for a considerable period, for at least one was diverted when a change in the field boundaries blocked its original course.

Trackways 1 to 3

NGR: NT 9107 2935 – NT 9190 2956. NMR: NT 92 NW 127

Trackway 1 appears to have made use of the level strip formed by a pre-existing cultivation terrace. It extends for 125m along the foot of the steep natural scarp on the southern side of West Hill, following an alignment roughly from south-west to north-east. The course of the route to the west of the surviving stretch may have been obscured by later agriculture, but it is possible that it genuinely terminated there. The siting of the trackway in relation to the topography suggests that it was deliberately skirting the gentler slopes to the south, which may have been in agricultural use at the time. Furthermore, at the point of the intersection of Trackway 1 and the Bank 16, the trackway turns downslope and may have continued south-eastwards to become Trackway 5, as though following the course of the field boundary, which would seem to confirm that the two are broadly contemporary. However, the trackway was evidently blocked by the construction of Bank 17, leading to the development of Trackway 2.

Trackway 2 appears to represent the diversion of Trackway 1 following the construction of Bank 17. From the point at which Trackway 1 and Bank 17 intersect, Trackway 2 heads northwards up the steep natural scarp, following the western and northern side of the field boundary, stretches of which are more carefully revetted with large boulders set on edge. The trackway can be traced as a fairly pronounced hollow way for 110m, and its alignment suggests that it may well have continued eastward to join Trackway 3.

Trackway 3 is well preserved as a deeply incised terrace and hollow way over a distance of 90m, where it curves around the foot of a steep natural scarp on the eastern side of West Hill. To the west of this well-preserved section, slight traces suggest that the route may have continued north-westwards up the slope, passing between Banks 9 and 14 and heading for the gateway in the outer enclosure on the summit. Given that this section of the hollow way has been severely degraded by medieval and later ploughing, the circumstantial evidence strongly suggests that the trackway and the outer enclosure are broadly contemporary. Some 60m to the north of the well-preserved section, what may be a surviving remnant of the embankment alongside the trackway suggests that the route may have followed the contours over the shoulder of the hill. In the light of this, it is possible that the trackway intersected at some point with Trackway 4, and that these two are also broadly contemporary.

Trackway 4

NT 9088 2953 – NT 9135 2988. NMR: NT 92 NW 128

Trackway 4 survives well as a level terrace that ascends the contours obliquely from north-east to south-west for a total distance of 440m. At its western end, the trackway ends abruptly on the steep north-western slope of the hill, at what appears to be a deliberate terminal. At its eastern end, the earthworks of the trackway have been obscured by 19th-century improvement ploughing, but the course of the route can be inferred from the alignment of gaps or breaches that occur in three consecutive cultivation terraces. The form of an adjacent cultivation terrace hints that a branch of the trackway may have diverged and followed the relatively level terrace towards Scooped Settlement 1. As mentioned above, it is also possible that the trackway, or a branch of it, diverged at some point to join Trackway 3. The western end of the

trackway, however, seems to have been designed to serve two stone quarries of similar size and form on the northern slope of the hill (see Section 4.2). The route runs a few metres downslope from both quarries, and its terminal lies just beyond the western limit of the more westerly of the two. Although it is not impossible that the trackway was extended in the medieval period to serve the quarries, at face value the relationship implies that the quarrying is likely to be of Romano-British date. The relationship of Bank 8 to the northern side of the trackway would seem to support this conclusion.

Trackway 5

NGR: NT 9129 2928 – NT 9140 2910. NMR: -

To the north of Bank 2, Trackway 5 is suggested by a slight depression along the eastern side the south-eastern end of Bank 16. There may have been a second embankment along its eastern side, since a stretch of the overlying medieval cultivation ridge is slightly more pronounced. To the south of Bank 2, Trackway 5 fans out into as many as six hollow ways, the most obvious of which are up to 0.4m deep. Given that the eastern end of Trackway 1 turns southwards around the northern end of Bank 16, as though following the eastern side of the field boundary, it is possible that the two trackways are one and the same. Trackway 1 is overlain by Bank 17 and Trackway 5 appears to be overlain by Bank 2, which would imply that both routes were in use relatively early in the Romano-British sequence.

Trackway 6

NT 9124 2903. NMR -

A possible hollow way was noted following the eastern side of Bank 25 for approximately 20m. To the south of the survey area, all trace of the earthwork has been erased by ploughing, and the surviving fragment is too short to allow more detailed interpretation.

Scooped settlements

On the eastern and southern slopes of the hill are five probable 'scooped settlements'. These small complexes are so called because they occupy sub-rectangular or approximately circular platforms deliberately scooped into the natural slope on the uphill side and built up to a corresponding height downhill. This distinctive form of settlement is generally agreed to be of late Iron Age or more probably of Romano-British date. A sixth enclosure on the north-western side of the hill, first recorded by Sir Walter de la Aitchison in the 1940s, was examined for the English Heritage survey but not surveyed in detail. Three more such enclosures were alleged to exist by Aitchison (NMR numbers: NT 92 NW 27, 28 and 29), but the first two of these appear to have been confused with other earthworks, and the third simply does not exist at or near the given grid reference.

Scooped Settlement 1 (see Figure 15)

NGR: NT 9132 2966. NMR: NT 92 NW 122

This settlement, located on the steep eastern slope of West Hill, comprises a cluster of up to eight platforms. Several of these appear to have made use of the level strips created by pre-existing cultivation terraces, and it is possible that one of the terraces provided convenient access to the complex from the north. Two of the larger platforms, which are 8m and 11m in diameter and stand up to 2.0m high downhill, retain intermittent traces of stone walling around their perimeters. It is possible that these two supported domestic structures and the smaller ones ancillary buildings. Alternatively, although there is no firm stratigraphic evidence to support the suggestion, it may be that the cluster of platforms is the eventual outcome of the expansion of the settlement over time. All the platforms have been disturbed to some degree by 19th-century improvement ploughing, and the uppermost has also been severely damaged by rabbit burrowing.

Bank 6, which appears to be contemporary with the settlement, begins immediately downslope from the largest platform and extends eastwards straight down the slope, passing close to Scooped Settlement 2 and terminating at right angles against Bank 1 or 2. The chronological relationship between these two banks has already been discussed (see above).

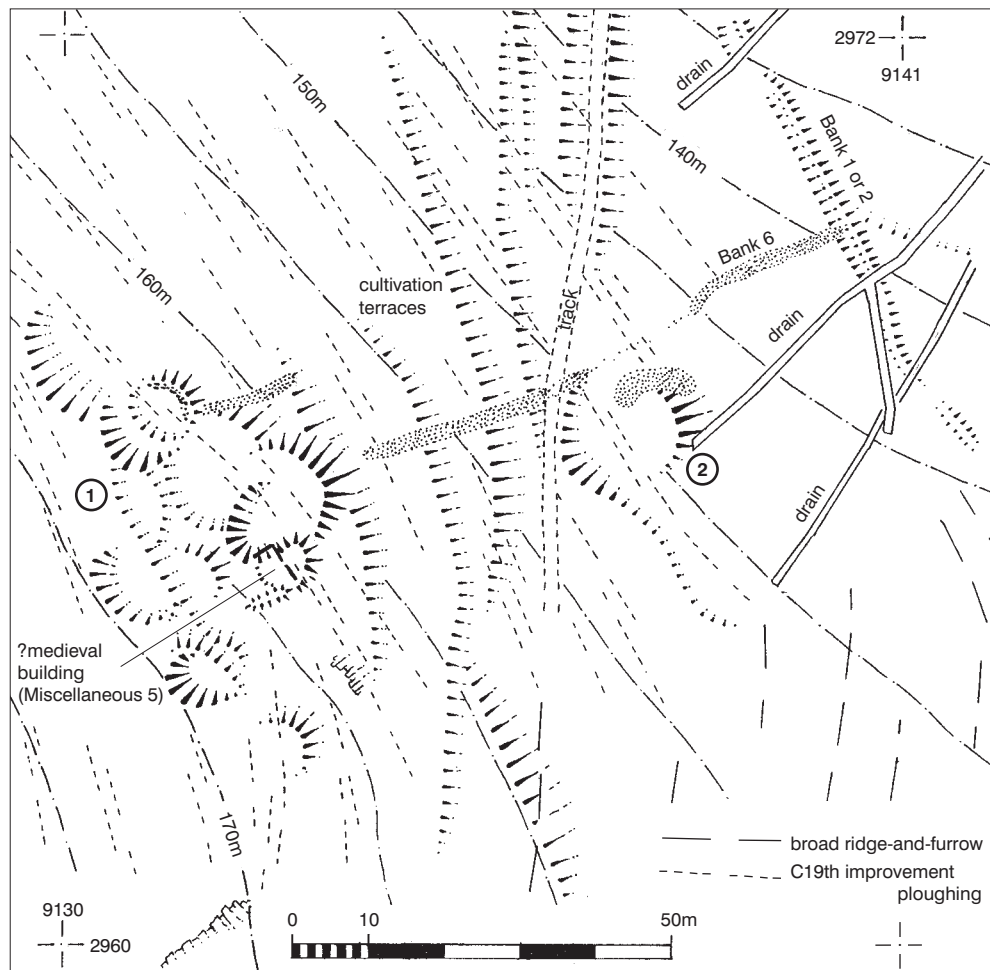


Figure 15.
Plan of
Scooped Settlements
1 and 2
(at 1:1000 scale)

The stone footings of a small rectangular building overlie the perimeter of one of the two larger platforms. This is evidently a much later addition, and is interpreted as being of medieval origin (see Section 4.4, Miscellaneous 5).

Scooped Settlement 2 (see Figure 15)

NGR: NT 9137 2967. NMR: NT 92 NW 123

A single circular platform is sited on the steep eastern slope of West Hill some 45m downslope from Scooped Settlement 1. Although it could be part of the same complex, it is sufficiently isolated to suggest that it may represent a separate settlement. The level area is c.11m in diameter, and the downhill side of the platform stands to a maximum height of 1.5m. There is no trace of any structure, but the platform has been disturbed by 19th-century improvement ploughing. A short stretch of Bank 6, which passes immediately to the north of the platform, appears to have been partly removed and the spoil mounded up at the edge of the platform. This disturbance may be associated with the 19th-century ploughing.

Scooped Settlement 3 (see Figure 11)

NGR: NT 9124 2970. NMR: NT 92 NW 124

A single isolated circular platform is sited on the steep south-eastern slope of West Hill. The level area is 10m in diameter, and the scoop is more pronounced than the platform downhill, cutting into the natural slope to a maximum depth of c.2m. Only a short fragment of stony bank on the eastern edge of the platform is suggestive of any structure, but the area has been disturbed by 19th-century improvement ploughing. Bank 5, which is equally poorly preserved, may have joined the base of the platform.

Scooped Settlement 4 (see Figure 16).

NGR: NT 9132 2953.

NMR: NT 92 NW 125

What may originally have been a complex of several platforms lies on the gentle south-eastern slope of West Hill. The most prominent surviving earthwork is an oval scoop, with a fairly prominent embankment skirting the downhill side, which appears to have enclosed two adjoining circular platforms. The scoop is 12m long from south to north by up to 6m wide, and is cut up to 1.0m into the natural slope. The embankment around the downslope side is best preserved at its northern end, where it is particularly stony and clearly represents the remnant of a tumbled wall. The southern end of the earthwork has been more severely damaged by medieval and later ploughing, but it is

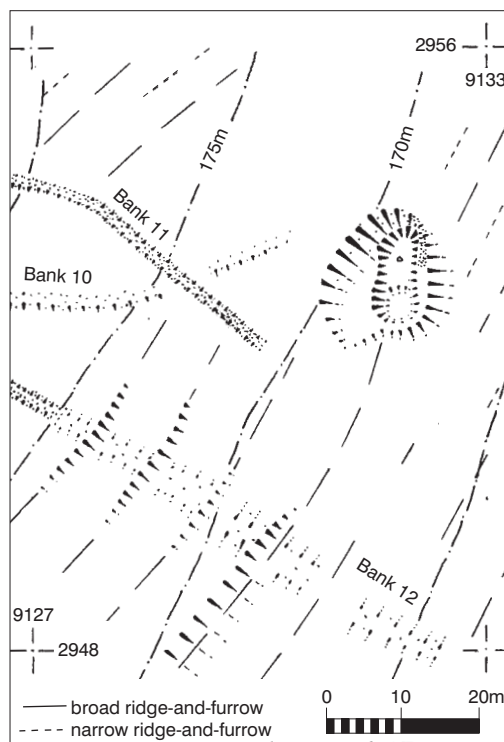


Figure 16.
Plan of
Scooped Settlement 4
(at 1:1000 scale)

possible that this may have been the point of entry into the scoop. Very degraded earthworks suggest that there may have been more platforms to the south-west, perhaps extending as far as Bank 11, which seems to terminate *c.*10m away from the most clearly evident element of the settlement. Bank 10 heads directly towards the upslope side of the main scoop. However, the intensive medieval cultivation has made it impossible to securely infer any relationship between the scooped settlement and the two banks through earthwork survey alone.

Scooped Settlement 5 (see Figure 17)

NGR: NT 9104 2911. NMR: NT 92 NW 126

A small complex of platforms lies at the foot of the steep slope on the southern side of West Hill. The principal earthwork is a large platform *c.*18m in diameter, built up to a height of 1.4m on the downslope side, which may have supported more than one structure. There are also slight indications of two or three more platforms to either side. Like Scooped Settlement 1, the platforms appear to have made use of the level strip created by a pre-existing cultivation terrace; a series of these terraces extends across the more gentle slope to the west of the settlement. Bank 20, which terminates immediately to the rear of the largest platform and extends directly up the steep slope to the north for at least 32m, appears to be contemporary with the settlement. A slighter stony bank that extends westwards from Bank 20 appears to have defined a small rectangular enclosure uphill from the scooped settlement.

Scooped Settlement 6 (see Figure 11)

NGR: NT 9070 2975; NMR: NT 92 NW 33

The site was examined by English Heritage, but not surveyed in detail.

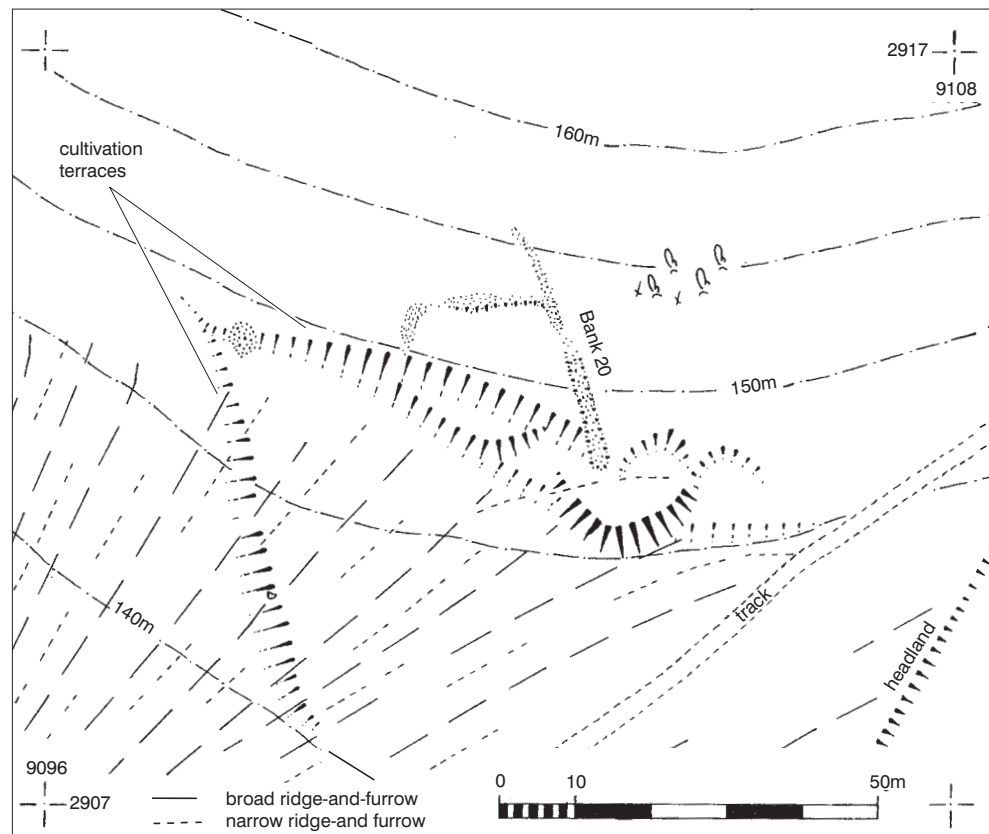


Figure 17.
Plan of Scooped
Settlement 5 (at
1:1000 scale)

4.4 The landscape around the hillfort (medieval and later periods - see Figure 11)

Medieval longhouse, post-medieval cottage and sheepfold (see Figures 18 and 19)

NGR: NT 9134 2929. NMR: NT 92 NW 129

The dilapidated remains of a drystone building stand near the middle of the saddle that forms the watershed between the two tributary streams to the south-east of West Hill. The standing walls almost precisely overlie the earthwork traces of earlier buildings whose long axis was aligned from west-south-west to east-north-east, on a very slightly different angle from the standing walls. The earthwork remains suggest a rectangular range from 14m to 33m long and approximately 7m wide, which would be fairly typical in plan of medieval longhouses in the Cheviots (information from P Topping). It is unclear whether exposed wall footings and narrow, sharply defined earthworks at either end of the range represent subdivisions of the main longhouse or smaller annexes and outbuildings adjoining it. The position of the entrance is uncertain, but a slightly depressed rectangular area to the north of the building

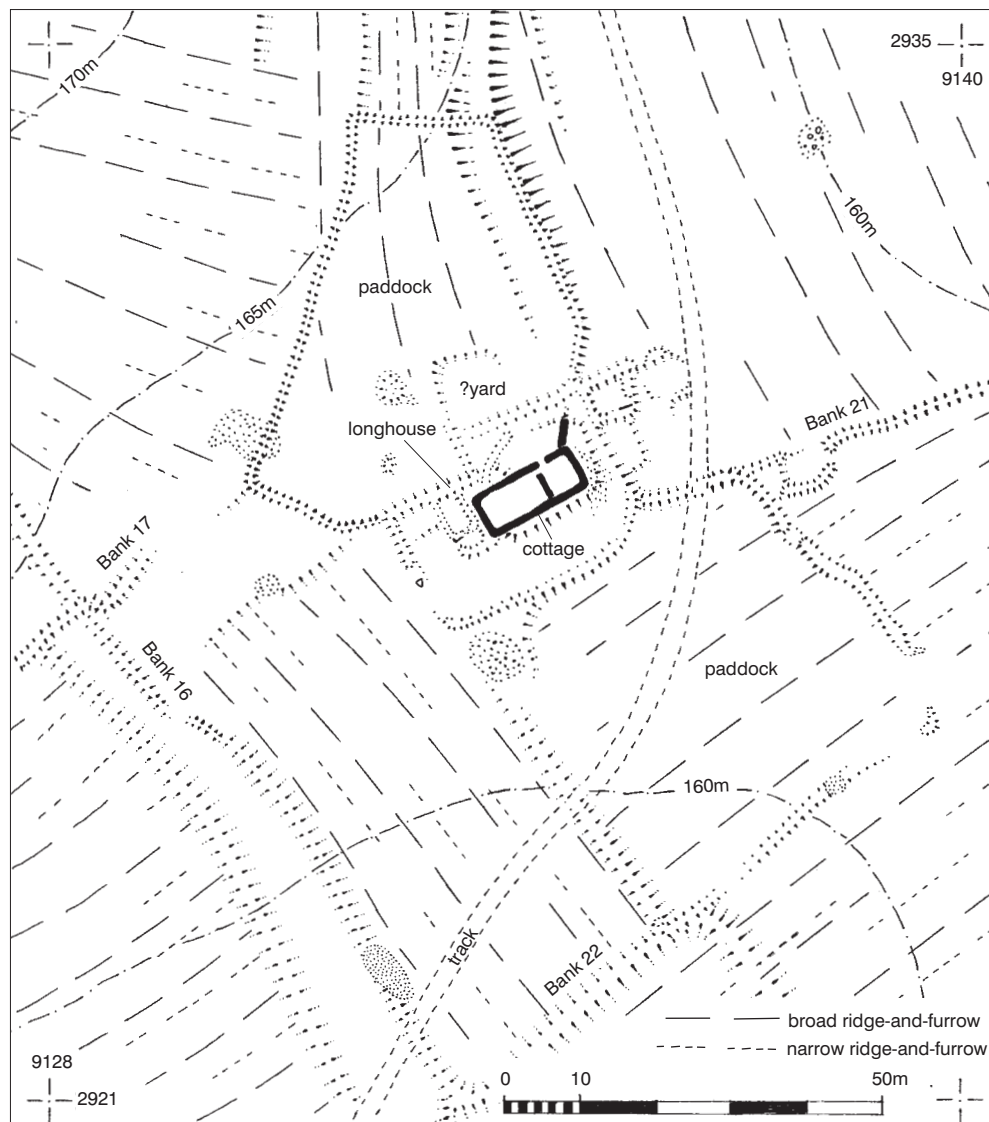


Figure 18.
Plan of the
medieval longhouse
and post-medieval
cottage
(at 1:1000 scale)

suggests that there may have been a yard on that side. This appears to have been approached from the north along a trackway, described below as Trackway 5, that was subsequently blocked by one of the small paddocks described above.

The medieval longhouse seems to have been surrounded by at least four open fields (recorded as part of NT 92 NW 129) each comprising between four and eight broad cultivation ridges up to 11m wide. The low 'headland' banks that define the boundaries between the fields are not numbered on Figure 11, except where there is some possibility that they originated as early field boundaries (parts of Banks 2, 16, 17 and 21). Much of the ridge-and-furrow cultivation exhibits the 'reverse-S' pattern characteristic of ploughing using oxen as draft animals. To the south of the



*Figure 19.
Photograph of the
interior of the
post-medieval
cottage*

longhouse, the ridges in one field curve more sharply and are constricted in order to respect the line of the earlier field boundary Bank 2, but the boundary was evidently eventually ploughed over and itself turned into a cultivation ridge. Many of the ridges seem to have been subdivided at a later date to form narrower strips; this modification is discussed further below.

The overlying dilapidated drystone building was evidently built as a small cottage, comprising a simple rectangular range oriented west-south-west to east-north-east. The building was 14m long by 5m wide, subdivided roughly a third of the way along its length by a later partition wall of similar construction. The drystone walls, which are 1.2m wide at the base with a slight batter, stand to a maximum height of 1.7m; this presumably represents more or less the original full height of the walls. The building was entered through a doorway on the north side, which gave access into the smaller of the two rooms. Other than a small, cupboard-like recess in the northern wall of the smaller room (see Figure 19), no architectural elaboration is evident. The form of the building is impossible to date with precision, but is consistent with a late medieval or more probably a post-medieval origin. The cottage was presumably lacking its roof by 1860, when it was mapped as a 'sheepfold' (Ordnance Survey 1861).

The stump of a drystone wall projects at 45 degrees from the north-eastern corner of the building. This, together with a low stony bank that represents the denuded remnant of the same wall, once formed part of a small irregular quadrangular enclosure adjoining the northern side of the building. A similar enclosure, whose extent is not entirely certain, adjoined the southern side of the cottage. Although parts of the banks follow the course of earlier field boundaries, both enclosures clearly overlie broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Narrower ridges appear to have been created at some point by the subdivision of the earlier broad ridges by shallower intermediate furrows; it is noticeable that this cultivation extended up to the outer edges of the enclosures, but not within them. The enclosures may therefore be interpreted as paddocks or gardens associated with the cottage and contemporary with the narrow ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

Medieval and later ridge-and-furrow cultivation

NT 913 295. NMR: NT 92 NW 130

In addition to the fields described above that appear to have been directly linked with the medieval longhouse, a number of furlongs of ridge-and-furrow cultivation were identified that may have been associated with the longhouse or with other medieval settlements in the vicinity, presumably including the village of Kirknewton. These will not be described in detail, but are depicted on Figures 11 and 22. In general, the fields are confined to the more gentle lower slopes of the hill, although in several instances steeper and less profitable ground has been cultivated. Most of the strips follow the contours, and many exhibit the 'reverse-S' pattern characteristic of ploughing using oxen as draft animals. In some instances, earlier cultivation terraces and field banks have been respected, while in others the earlier earthworks have clearly been ploughed flat or themselves converted into cultivation ridges. The cultivation ridges are generally broad, usually between 4m and 9m in width, although many appear to have been subdivided by slighter furrows at a later date. They range in length from 50m to 180m, but are mostly less than 0.1m high, indicating that cultivation was probably not prolonged. Only on the northern side of the hill, closest to Kirknewton, were the fields cultivated for long enough to become substantial

terraces up to 1.2m high; these were bounded by a broad earthen bank or 'head dyke' that in part follows the edge of one of the extant farm tracks. The size and spacing of the terraces suggests that a number may well have originated in the prehistoric period. This area of cultivation is recorded separately as NT 92 NW 131.

The subdivision of the broad cultivation ridges into narrow strips is impossible to date with accuracy, but narrow ridges are generally considered to be a later medieval or post-medieval development. The apparent association of narrow strip fields with the drystone cottage built on the site of the earlier longhouse would seem to support such a date. In some cases, it was not possible to distinguish with confidence between broad and narrow cultivation ridges, although the former were usually more pronounced as earthworks and are consequently much more clearly visible on aerial photographs. In short, the division of the cultivation remains into 'medieval' and 'post-medieval' categories is probably to some extent arbitrary.

Probable medieval trackways

A number of trackways were identified which seem to be of later date than those described in Section 4.3, either on the evidence of their form or their stratigraphic relationship to other features; these are numbered 7 to 10 on Figure 11. While they may have originated at an earlier date, most were probably most heavily used in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Trackway 7

NGR: NT 9132 2940 - NT 9135 2930. NMR: NT 92 NW 129

The medieval longhouse described above appears to have been approached from the north along a trackway that respected the line of the broad ridge and furrow cultivation on either side. The route can be traced for about 100m, and may have given access to some of the possible enclosures adjoining the southern side of the pens referred to as Miscellaneous 1. It was evidently blocked by the construction of the boundary of one of the small paddocks described above.

Trackway 8

NGR: NT 9139 2979 – 9154 2911. NMR: NT 92 NW 136

Trackway 8 follows the western bank of the small tributary stream to the east of West Hill. The northern end of the route lies on private land and was therefore not investigated, but is presumed to lie in the vicinity of Kirknewton. Ascending the steep gradient into the saddle to the east of West Hill, the route braids into as many as five hollow ways which have been eroded to varying depths. At the top of the steep slope, these trackways reunite for a short distance before diverging to spread southwards into the main Cheviot massif. The westernmost of these routes is well preserved within the bounds of the area surveyed by English Heritage, although intermittently damaged by 19th-century and later drainage channels. The trackway is up to 6m wide and eroded to a maximum depth of 0.5m, with low earth and stone embankments on both sides that may have carried hedges or fences. This form, together with the considerable width of the trackway, probably indicate that the trackway was used as a droveway for moving livestock to upland pastures. Braided hollow ways on the steep slopes to the south of Torleehouse are clearly elements of the same droveway, and

have been recorded as such by previous investigators (NMR numbers: NT 92 NW 36).

Given the proximity of the droveway to Trackway 4, and the convenience of the route onto the saddle to the east of West Hill, it is quite possible that its use originated in the Romano-British period or even earlier. However, the form of the trackway that now survives as an earthwork is most likely to be of medieval or later date. Elements of the track must have been disused by the early 19th century at the latest, since one of the hollow ways is blocked by the western end of the earthen dam shown as being disused on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map (1861), which is described below. However, the present farm track follows essentially the same course, and it is likely that the route has never gone entirely out of use.

Trackway 9

NT 9078 2921 – NT 9085 2909

On the south-western side of the hill, a short section of a terraced trackway was recorded, which, along with the present farm track, was in use in the later 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1861; 1897) and probably more recently, to judge by its condition. It connects with the modern track and with Trackway 10, and seems mainly to have provided access to the field to the south of the survey area; the original gate through the wall has been blocked and a stile built over it.

Trackway 10

NT 9075 2916 – NT 9090 2903

A deeply hollowed trackway leads from the valley floor to the west of West Hill up the river terrace to connect with Trackway 9 and pass through the gate into the fields to the south of the survey area. It was in use in the later 19th century, and continues to provide occasional vehicular access to the valley floor.

Post-medieval dams

Dam 1

NGR: NT 9141 2978. NMR: NT 92 NW 140

The remains of a dam span the course of the minor tributary stream to the east of West Hill at a point where the channel has been eroded to a width of 15m and is deeply incised. The dam was formed by an earthen bank 24m long from south-west to north-east, faced with at least one course of stones on the upstream side. At its centre, where the stream has breached the earthwork, the bank was approximately 6m wide at the base and 2.4m high. There are indications of an artificial 'spillway' or overflow channel at the eastern end of the dam.

The western end of the dam overlies one of the braided hollow ways that form part of the probable medieval droveway. Since this route is likely to have been used most intensively in the medieval period or later, a post-medieval origin for the dam seems likely. The dam had evidently been breached by the stream and fallen into disuse by 1860, since the earthwork is depicted, but not annotated, on the First Edition 25-inch map (Ordnance Survey 1861). It was presumably the forerunner of the larger stone

and concrete barrier described below as Dam 2, and probably supplied water to power a watermill in Kirknewton. The potential volume of water would not have been sufficient to provide prolonged power, so corn milling seems much more likely than any industrial activity.

Dam 2

NGR: NT 9147 2946. NMR: NT 92 NW 141

A well-preserved dam still retains a shallow pond near the head of the tributary stream to the east of West Hill, some 300m upstream from the earthen dam described above. The dam is some 75m long, formed by an earthen bank faced with a substantial stone and concrete wall up to c.2m high, and has an overflow channel around its eastern end. The reservoir potentially covered an area of 1600m² and has been artificially deepened to some degree, but could never have held a great quantity of water. However, in addition to the water available from the reservoir, two springs were channeled along broad leats to join the stream, and these together would probably have provided a relatively constant flow. One of the leats leads from a spring near Torleehouse to the south-west, and could have been diverted westwards if necessary to join the tributary stream to the south of West Hill; the other leads from a spring to the south-east. The water supply is believed to have powered a watermill at Kirknewton Farm (information from Mr Colin Martin, landowner), and this would be consistent with the size of the reservoir. The alignment of the dam, from west-south-west to east-north-east continues the line of one of the field walls of the 'Enclosure' period, indicating that it was probably built in the earlier 19th century. It was certainly in use in 1860 and 1896 (Ordnance Survey 1861; 1897) and the condition of the sluice suggests that it was maintained well into the 20th century. The construction of the dam destroyed and obscured a stretch of Trackway 6. The water level was lowered to its current depth of c.0.5m in 1979 to improve the drainage in the vicinity (Tarbit and Tarbit 1979), but the pond has been retained to attract wildlife.

19th-century improvement ploughing

NGR: NT 912 296

The steep eastern and north-eastern slopes of West Hill were subject to a brief but remarkably determined episode of ploughing. The plough furrows are generally between 1m and 3m apart, and are in many cases marked only by lines in the bracken. The direction of ploughing generally more-or-less follows the contours, or runs obliquely across them, but in several places small areas have been infilled without regard to the topography. A few instances of cross-ploughing were identified. A sufficient proportion of the furrows was recorded to ascertain the nature and extent of the ploughing, but for clarity only a token number of those surveyed are depicted on Figures 11 and 23. The more gentle lower slopes of the hill do not appear to have been affected. The pattern is typical of light ploughing undertaken in the 19th century to improve the quality of the pasture.

Miscellaneous remains

Miscellaneous 1

NGR: NT 9109 2906. NMR: NT 92 NW 132

A series of conjoining livestock pens or small enclosures occupies the narrow dry valley to the south-east of the hill. This ladder-like pattern of earthworks may well have been one of the 'robbed homesteads' identified by Sir Walter de la Aitchison in 1949, although in 1955 Eric Geary concluded that Aitchison had identified a more massive section of Bank 18 that lies *c.*60m to the east (NMR b). The northern and southern sides of the pens are defined by Banks 1 and 18 respectively, while the western and eastern ends may have been formed by Banks 16 and 17, an area 110m long from south-west to north-east by between 5m and 18m wide. Within this perimeter are at least three internal divisions formed by banks or low scarps running between clearance cairns, forming small enclosures of variable size and shape. Stone robbing and other disturbance has left the earthworks in poor condition. The fact that field boundaries are integral to the design of the pens suggests that they may be of Romano-British origin, but the proximity of Trackway 5 hints at later re-use.

Adjoining the southern side of the series of pens lies a small complex of enclosures defined by narrow banks, also poorly preserved, which appear to represent a later modification of the original arrangement. There is no evidence that these enclosures represent occupation sites, and it is uncertain whether they are also of Romano-British date, or of much later origin. In 1976, in dismissing Aitchison's identification of a 'homestead' in the vicinity, Duncan Lowry of the Ordnance Survey mentioned the existence of an enclosure 'crossed by a modern wall' (NMR c). This seems very likely to be the same feature, although Lowry's grid reference would place the earthwork somewhat further to the east.

Miscellaneous 2

NGR: NT 9093 2905 and NT 9109 2905. NMR: NT 92 NW 133

Two clusters of small stone-built pens or shepherds' huts (shielings), very similar to each other in form but some 160m apart, lie adjacent to the small tributary stream to the south of West Hill. The western cluster comprises three interconnected structures, the largest 7m long by 4m wide, with tumbled walls or stony banks surviving to a maximum height of 0.4m. Adjoining the northern side of the structures is a small embanked (perhaps originally walled) enclosure, with access to the stream on the south. No trace of the bank or wall survives on the northern side of this enclosure, but it appears to have followed the edge of a field of ridge-and furrow cultivation, suggesting that the complex was built in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

The eastern complex comprises at least four structures, of similar size to those in the western cluster, linked by a wall that forms the northern side of an enclosure whose southern edge seems to have been largely destroyed by a drainage channel. Erosion and artificial cutting of the stream channel on the north have obscured the relationship to the original watercourse, but there may well have been access to it from the enclosure. The complex partly incorporated Bank 2, but a short stretch appears to have been robbed out to form the enclosure.

Between the two clusters of pens, an enclosure that adjoins the extant field wall appears by its condition to be of relatively modern origin; it almost certainly relates to the period of Enclosure in the earlier 19th century rather than the adjacent clusters of pens. Although tumbled and overgrown, the wall is noteworthy for its fine 'herring-bone pattern' construction.

Miscellaneous 3

NGR: NT 90990 29300. NMR: NT 92 NW 134

At the foot of the steep natural scarp on the southern side of West Hill, a single course of stones, describing an E-shape in plan, is suggestive of a temporary livestock pen or shepherd's shelter (shieling). The structure is 4.5m long by 3.0m wide overall, and is subdivided centrally. Although there is no firm evidence as to the date of the structure, it seems likely to be of medieval or later origin.

Miscellaneous 4

NGR: NT 91201 29646. NMR: NT 92 NW 135

In a sheltered saddle on the east side of the summit, a stony bank describing a rectangular plan 8m long by 4m wide probably represents the remains of a small building. The bank is overgrown and stands to a maximum height of 0.4m; a gap mid-way along the northern side probably marks the position of the doorway. Although there is no firm evidence as to the date of the structure, it seems likely to be of medieval or later origin.

Miscellaneous 5

NGR: NT 91327 29650. NMR: NT 92 NW 122

Traces of a rectangular stone structure at least 6m long and 3m wide were located on the top of a bank that defines the perimeter of one of the larger platforms of Scooped Settlement 1. The level terrace that the building occupies is clearly a later modification of the original bank, and it seems very likely that it was a shepherd's shelter (shieling) of medieval or later origin.

Miscellaneous 6

NGR: NT 91394 29356. NMR: NT 92 NW 27

A low earthen bank, poorly preserved as an earthwork, defines a small oval enclosure up to 7m in diameter. The earthwork may have served to pen livestock and is probably of medieval or later date. The earthwork is perhaps more likely to be the 'robbed homestead' identified by Aitchison than the part of the pens referred to as Miscellaneous 1, as suggested by Eric Geary of the Ordnance Survey.

Miscellaneous 7

NGR: NT 91351 29439

An alignment of boulders forms a revetment of stones around the head of an artificial watercourse that extends for 38m from west to east, effectively draining the springline in the dry valley to the south-east of West Hill. The alignment of the drainage channel is similar to that of the 19th-century and later field drains, but this may be fortuitous given that its course corresponds to the natural topography. The form of the artificial watercourse differs from that of the drains, and its general appearance suggests that it may have been constructed at a relatively early date.

5. DISCUSSION

The Neolithic and Bronze Age, 3000 BC – 750 BC (see Figure 20)

The English Heritage fieldwork has identified a number of monuments that may predate the construction of the Iron Age hillfort on which the investigation focused by more than 2000 years. It is appropriate to discuss these first, in order to demonstrate that the monuments on the summit were introduced into a landscape that was already long inhabited and exploited, and therefore very far from being a 'blank canvas' in terms of land-use.

The possible ring cairn and the cup-marked boulder may well have originated at broadly the same period in the later Neolithic or early Bronze Age (c.3000 BC – 1700 BC). If the possible burnt mound or cairn, and the cairn that incorporates the natural outcrop on the south-western shoulder of the hill are also funerary monuments, these may be of similar date. Of these potentially early monuments, the cup-marked boulder can be dated with slightly more precision (Bradley 1997, 62-6). Numerous examples have been recorded around the fringes of the Milfield Plain, but the vast majority are found on the Fell Sandstones to the east (Beckensall 1991; 1992). It is uncertain to what extent this represents a true impression of the distribution, rather than a reflection of the modern assumption that hard granite was not used for rock-art. However, the characteristics of the newly discovered stone and its decoration are typical of the category of 'simple' rock-art (Bradley 1997, 77ff). The choice of a boulder rather than an outcrop is typical, as is its siting in relation to the natural topography in the immediate vicinity. The cup-marks are not elaborately enclosed with rings, and are essentially isolated from each other. This style of rock art is thought more likely to be of later Neolithic than early Bronze Age date, based on examples found in close association with artifacts and the re-use of others in early Bronze Age cairns (Burgess 1991).

It has been suggested in Section 4.3 that the cup-marked boulder is probably still in its original position, or at least in the position to which it was moved in the later Neolithic. The siting of the rock art is therefore potentially significant in terms of understanding the use of the landscape at that period. The boulder may have been deliberately positioned so as to be intervisible with the later Neolithic stone circle at Hethpool, which lies on the valley floor 2.3kms to the south-west (Topping 1981a). If so, this would imply that in parts of the Cheviots, clearings in the woodland may have been more extensive and maintained for longer than is generally thought to have been the case at that date (Davies and Turner 1979; Tipping 1992; Mercer and Tipping 1994, 18). Only one other stone circle is known in the Cheviots, in Threestoneburn Wood 10kms to the south-east. In passing, it is worth noting that an examination by English Heritage of a 'stone circle' alleged to exist by Walter de la Aitchison 250m north-east of Torleehouse confirms the opinion of the Ordnance Survey field investigators that his speculation can be dismissed. It has been argued that both the genuine stone circles may have been sited on valley floors overlooked by high ground on all sides in order to exploit the localised patterns of intervisibility created by the natural amphitheatres (Topping 1997, 115).

It has been suggested that the stone circle at Hethpool lies at the mouth of the College Valley, perhaps marking the beginning of a sacred route up the College Valley to The Cheviot itself (Topping 1997, 115-20). However, the true mouth of the valley might arguably be regarded as the narrower defile where the river passes between West Hill and Hethpool Bell, 1km to the south-west of the summit. In passing, it is worth

mentioning that there is no firm evidence that the enclosure on the summit of Hethpool Bell is of Iron Age date, and that the monument appears to have been largely symbolic in function (Pearson and Ainsworth 2000). Apart from the river valley itself, the other convenient passes into the College Valley from the east are the saddle to the south-west of Hethpool Bell and the saddle overlooked by the cup-marked boulder. Studies of similar rock art elsewhere in northern Britain have concluded that the decorated stones may have acted as markers both of significant routes and territorial boundaries, particularly enclosed valleys (Waddington 1996; Bradley 1997, 81-7). It may therefore be more appropriate to regard the broad river terrace where the stone circle stands as the heart of a small 'territory', perhaps largely cleared of woodland, on the fringes of which stood territorial markers such as funerary monuments and the cup-marked boulder.

Whether the mound adjacent to the tributary stream on the southern side of the hill represents a burnt mound or a funerary monument, or indeed some other feature, remains unclear. On the one hand, the siting, size and apparent form of the mound seem to support its interpretation as a burnt mound (for example, see Topping 1998, fig 2). Yet while numerous examples are known from the Fell Sandstones, it would be rare in the context of the granite Cheviots. On the other hand, it is possible that the horseshoe-shaped plan of the mound results from later robbing, in which case its form may originally have been more consistent with a round barrow or cairn. Such burial monuments are far from infrequently found in low-lying locations, although most of those that survive as earthworks are on higher ground. That being said, siting in such close proximity to poorly-drained ground would be extremely unusual. If the mound is a burnt mound, an early to middle Bronze Age date is probable, whereas if it is a funerary monument, a later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date is likely.

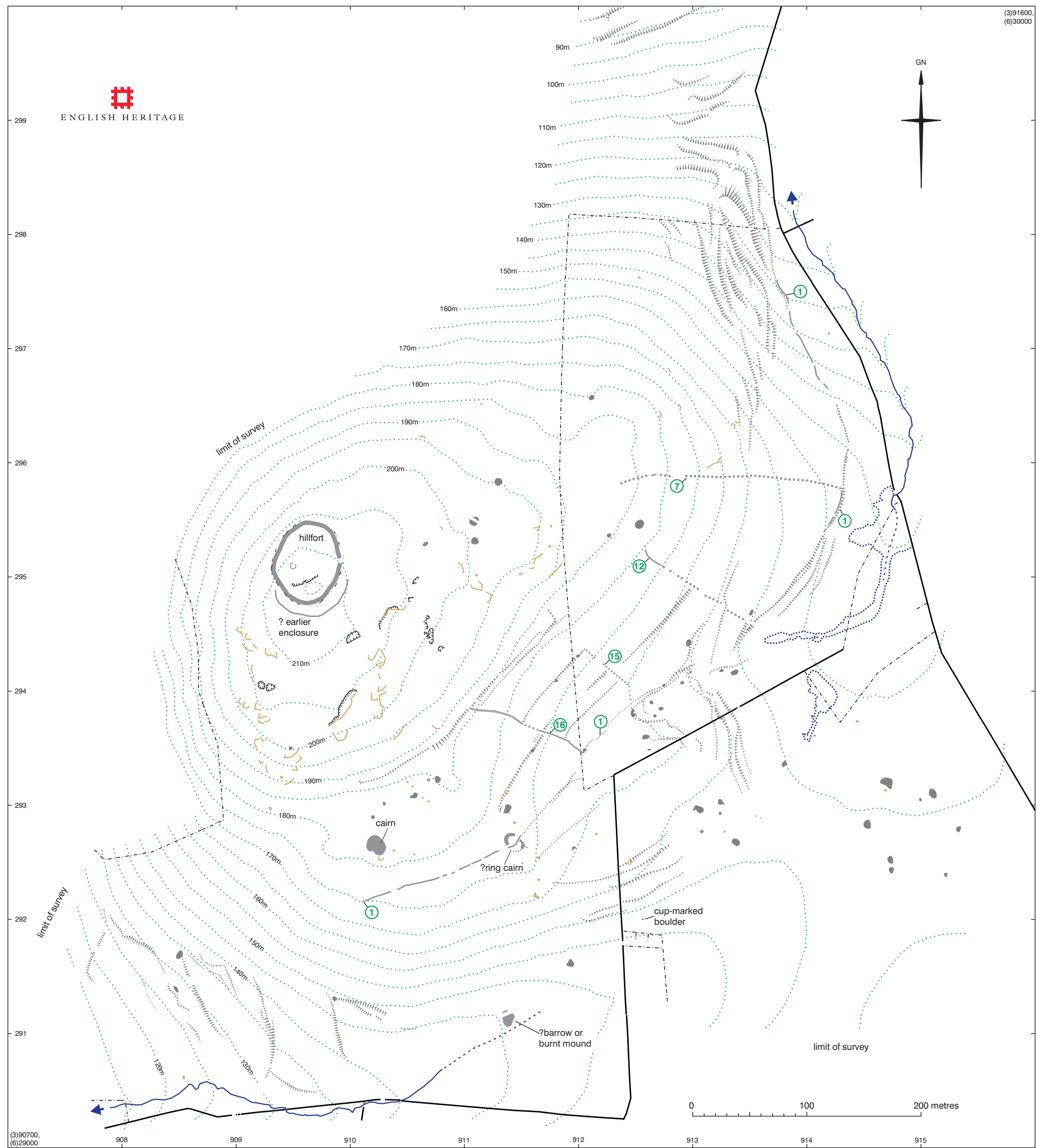
The field clearance cairns and cultivation terraces on the south-eastern slopes of West Hill, which cover an area up to 12ha in extent, seem to indicate the onset of relatively intensive arable agriculture. Again, although almost certainly prehistoric, the date at which this development took place in the Cheviots is a matter of debate. Cultivation terraces have traditionally been termed 'Celtic fields', implying a late Iron Age origin, which is probably misleading. In the context of northern Britain, Stuart Piggott proposed an influential model of a semi-nomadic pastoralist society, in which arable agriculture played little part until the Roman occupation (Piggott 1958, 25). More recently, however, survey and excavation on one hand have raised the possibility that some field systems at least may have begun to develop from as early as the later Neolithic and certainly from the middle Bronze Age; that is, between 2500 BC and 1500 BC (Feachem 1960; Jobey 1978; 1979; Burgess 1980; 1984, 144-52; 1985; Topping 1981b; Gates 1983). On the other hand, pollen evidence from the region suggests that while there were probably small-scale episodes of clearance from the early Bronze Age onwards, there was no real agricultural intensification until the later Iron Age, c.250 BC (Davies and Turner 1979; Tipping 1997, 242-3). It has also been argued that the development of arable agriculture, far from being a slow, steady intensification, saw an intensive period in the middle Bronze Age followed by wholesale collapse around 1000 BC until the early Iron Age (Burgess 1984, 152-3 and 160-1; 1985, 208-13).

The most useful evidence from the fieldwork on West Hill is perhaps provided by the cup-marked boulder and the relationship of the cultivation terraces to the scooped settlements. It has been suggested in Section 4.3 that the cup-marked boulder is only likely to have survived because it was at some stage incorporated into a field clearance cairn. If this argument is accepted, it would be logical to infer that the cairn

in question, and by implication many of the other clearance cairns, cannot have been constructed much before the early Bronze Age. The relationship of Bank 1 to the possible ring cairn hints that the monument was still recognised as a distinctive feature in the landscape when the early boundary was laid out. However, understanding of the nature and date of the ring-cairn is so limited that the observation sheds little light on the origins of the field system. At the other extreme, a number of the scooped settlements were evidently sited on top of cultivation terraces. It is widely accepted that these settlements are late Iron Age at the earliest, and more probably Romano-British (see below). It therefore follows that the terraces cannot be much later than the late Iron Age, and are more likely to have originated somewhat earlier, given that some had grown to a considerable depth by the time the settlements were built. In the absence of more accurate dating evidence, a Bronze Age origin seems entirely plausible. However, the cultivation terraces may have developed to their eventual extents and depths over the course of many centuries, so it is not safe to assume that agriculture was particularly intensive at that date. In conclusion, the date of the onset of agriculture and the pace of its subsequent development remain open to question. On the one hand, the more widely accepted opinion would suggest that the hillfort on the summit may have been introduced into a fairly open agricultural landscape. In the light of the excavation of the Bronze Age settlement and field system at Green Knowe in Peeblesshire and survey work elsewhere, it is possible that there were structures scattered throughout this cultivated landscape (Jobey 1978; 1979; 1985; Topping 1981b; Gates 1983). However, no trace of any settlement site has been positively identified by the English Heritage fieldwork, perhaps because the areas cultivated and inhabited in the Bronze Age were also heavily cultivated in later periods. On the other hand, if the late Bronze Age indeed saw a sudden abandonment of agricultural land and declining population in the uplands, it is possible that the hillfort was built in an environment which had once again become fairly densely wooded (Burgess 1984, 152-3 and 160-1; 1985, 211).

The Iron Age hillfort and its landscape, 700 BC – AD 50 (see Figure 20)

The dating of the hillfort to the Iron Age is secure given the general form and location of the monument, but in the absence of excavated evidence the precise date of its construction is open to question. George Jobey's interpretation of the so-called 'trench' underlying the hillfort as the line of an earlier timber palisade implied that the hillfort must have been constructed after the early Iron Age, the period during which most palisaded enclosures that have been tested by excavation were built. The re-interpretation of the earthwork as an actual ditch, accompanied by a bank, raises the possibility that the hillfort may have occupied the site of a much earlier enclosure, possibly of Bronze Age or even Neolithic date. The striking difference in the location of the two circuits in relation to the natural topography, which hints that there may have been a considerable interlude between the two phases of construction, seems to support this idea. However, on balance it seems more likely that the earthwork represents a forerunner of the stone-built fort. It is widely accepted that stone-built hillforts such as West Hill were generally constructed from the 6th century BC onwards, in many instances replacing earlier enclosures bounded by timber palisades, and coinciding with an intensification of arable agriculture (Burgess 1984, 159-64). Radiocarbon determinations from the excavated ramparts of the comparable hillfort on Wether Hill overlooking the Ingram Valley broadly support this theory (Topping and McOmish 2000). Yet very few other hillforts have been dated accurately either on artifactual evidence or by scientific dating techniques.



KEY

NATURAL FEATURES	
	Contours (at 5m intervals)
	Boulders and outcropping rock
	Stream
	Limit of boggy ground
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	
	Clearance cairns
	Field banks
	Scarps
	Quarrying
MODERN FEATURES	
	Field walls
	Fences

Figure 20:
Phase plan of the landscape around West Hill
(prehistoric periods)

The term 'hillfort', with its connotations of impressive size and defensive function, has been used throughout this report. Yet it has been remarked that the only Iron Age enclosure in Northumberland that bears comparison with the size and scale of occupation of hillforts in central and southern England, and indeed with some of the larger examples in southern Scotland, is the fort on Yeavinger Bell (Hogg 1943, 138; Cunliffe 1983, 86 and fig 4; Ferrell 1997, 231). So-called hillforts such as that on West Hill seem not to represent the 'proto-urban' centralization of power and resources that are usually seen as characteristics of the southern hillforts (Cunliffe 1991, 528-40). On the contrary, it seems more likely that they result from the adoption of a style of defensive architecture by highly autonomous small groups within a social structure with no pronounced hierarchy: defended farmsteads, in effect (Ferrell 1997, 233). There is a striking lack of firm evidence for Iron Age buildings, with only a single possible 'ring-groove' that may mark the site of a roundhouse built in timber. This, together with the apparent absence of subdividing boundaries in the interior of the hillfort suggests that there may have been relatively few occupants, with a close social bond between them – perhaps an extended family group (ibid, 234).

Other aspects of the design of the hillfort may also shed light on the ideological concerns of the builders. The curious 'tilt' of the ramparts in relation to the contours of the hilltop has the effect of making the monument visible from the river valley immediately to the north-west by counteracting the convex slope on that side of the hill. Although hillforts have conventionally been thought of as primarily defensive in function, it has been argued that architectural display was also an important factor in their design, in some cases over-riding what might seem to be 'common-sense' considerations from a defensive point of view (Bowden and McOmish 1987; 1989). Certainly at West Hill, the summit is only just enclosed, and it could be argued that the placement of the circuit could have made more efficient use of the setting from a purely functional and defensive point of view. If the placement of the defences was intended to signify the power or wealth of the inhabitants, it is interesting that the display was apparently directed towards the floor of the College Valley to the north and north-east. As a result, when seen from that direction, the hillfort visually dominates the approach to the valley. Indeed, the distribution of most of the hillforts in the north-eastern Cheviots superficially suggests a relationship to the low-lying plains rather than to the Cheviot massif (Topping 1999, 15-16 and fig 4). The hillfort on West Hill is unusual, however, in being oriented away from the agricultural land with which it appears to have been most directly associated (ibid, 16). The gateway into the hillfort, which was probably the most visually impressive section of the perimeter, faces directly towards the hillfort on Yeavinger Bell. This may indicate that there was some social connection between the two settlements, or that the occupants owed allegiance to a tribal chieftain based in the larger hillfort. However, it should also be noted that the gateway faces due east, an orientation which it shares with the overwhelming majority of the entrances of hillforts, enclosures and roundhouses throughout the Iron Age. It may therefore be that the cardinal solar direction was of widespread symbolic importance (Hill 1993, 66 and fig 3; 1994, 6 and fig 2, 1995, fig 7; Oswald 1997). Also in common with the contemporary domestic architecture, the circuit of the ramparts maintains a very nearly circular plan despite the sloping ground on which it was built, like many other examples in northern England (for example, see Feachem 1966, 72 and fig 8). This is all the more remarkable when it is considered that prehistoric design is generally more likely to have been concerned with giving an impression of circularity than with achieving modern standards of geometrical accuracy (Barnatt and Moir 1984). Such planning has traditionally been interpreted in terms of the efficient defence of the rampart, but

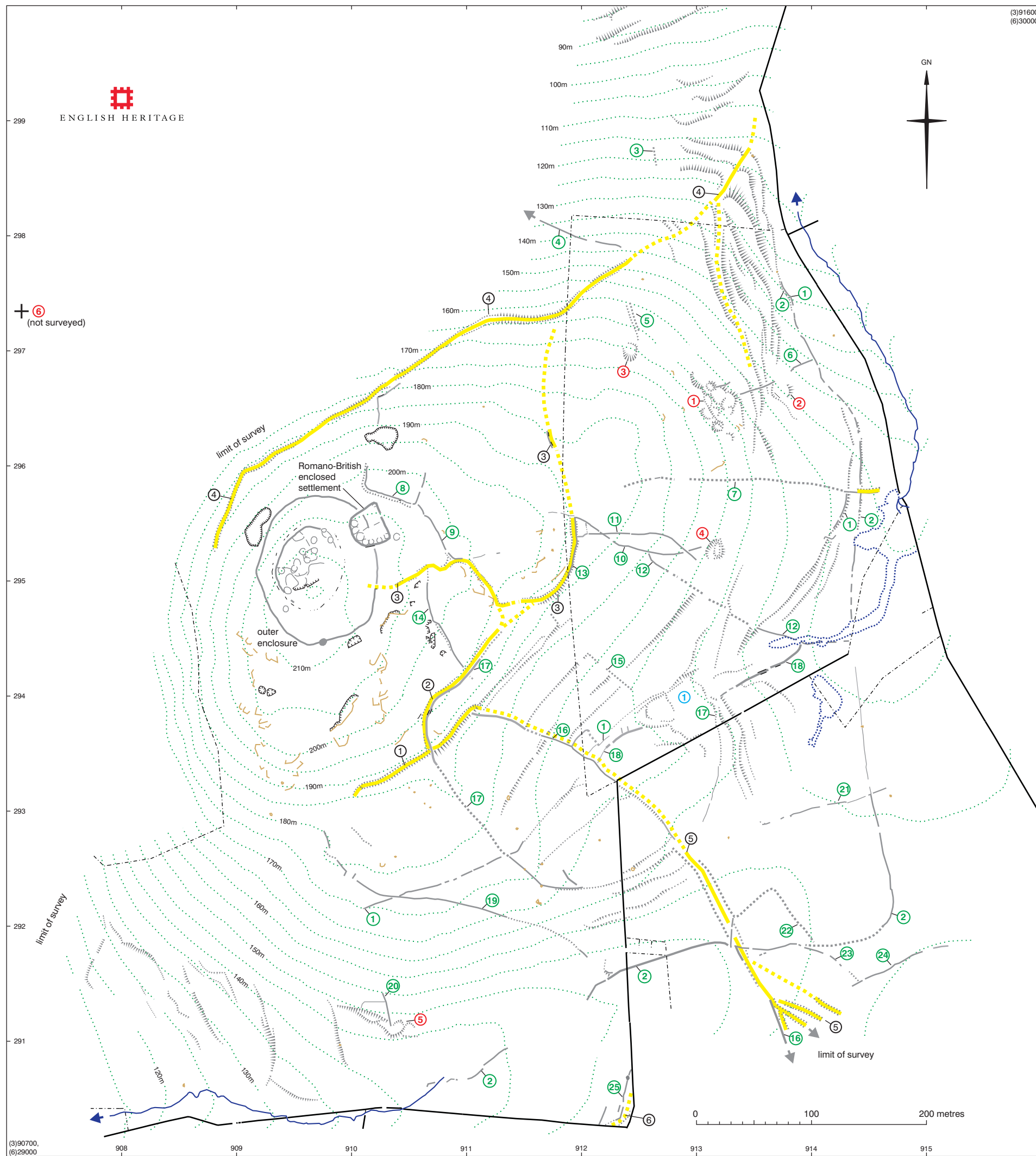
it is possible that the circularity of the perimeter was symbolically important, perhaps replicating the design of Iron Age houses. This draws attention to the potential sophistication of the prehistoric architecture and the high degree of skill required by the builders. At West Hill, this is most clearly evident in the remains of the stone-built rampart, where the surviving lengths of stone facing indicate that large blocks were quarried, transported and carefully dressed and laid to form a substantial coursed wall. Although the evidence for domestic roundhouses is negligible, it is worth considering that whatever structures there may have been, though conventionally described dismissively as 'huts', were evidently capable of withstanding the elements in an extremely exposed situation.

The probable Bronze Age origins of the cultivation remains on the northern side of West Hill have already been discussed. There is no sign of 'cord rig' cultivation, which is generally thought to be of late Iron Age date (Topping 1989), and much of the agricultural activity is probably of Romano-British date (see below). However, it seems likely that at least some of the land may have been cultivated by the occupants of the hillfort. As described in Section 4.3, the chronological sequence of the field boundaries is complex and difficult to disentangle. However, two of the boundaries - Banks 1 and 15 - can be distinguished as being both of relatively early date and as having no obvious relationship to the Romano-British scooped settlements; these are tentatively interpreted as elements of a field system potentially contemporary with the Iron Age occupation of the hillfort. It is possible that some of the other boundaries, for example Banks 7, 12 and 16, were originally part of the same arrangement and were later extended to conform to the larger Romano-British pattern. This agriculture may represent a stage in the continuous cultivation of the land from the Bronze Age onwards, or renewed cultivation of terraces that had lain abandoned for centuries. Bank 1 may have defined the perimeter of the field system directly associated with the hillfort, and was perhaps an early version of the kind of 'ranch boundary' more clearly represented at a later date by Bank 2. If so, West Hill constitutes a rare and important example of hillfort whose associated 'territory' is to some degree understood.

The Romano-British period, AD 50 – AD 410 (see Figure 21)

The term Romano-British has been used throughout this report, but it must be stressed that for most of the period, the area north of Hadrian's Wall lay beyond the bounds of Roman rule. It has been suggested that at some point in the 3rd century AD, the Cheviots may have been deliberately depopulated by the Romans (Burgess 1984, 172). With the possible exception of this speculative event, it seems likely that the influence of Roman culture on the uplands of the north-eastern Cheviots would have been slight and very indirect (Higham 1986, 224-6).

At first glance, the presence of supposed Romano-British structures within the hillfort would seem to suggest continuity of occupation on the site. Indeed, with the exception of George Jobey's published survey (Jobey 1964, fig 8), the possibility that the structures are not contemporary with the stone-built rampart has not been recognised by previous investigators. Yet the English Heritage field survey suggests that the stone-built rampart had already collapsed, or been demolished, by the time some (if not all) of the houses were built. Some of the tumbled stone was re-used to rebuild part of the perimeter on a much smaller scale and a new outer enclosure was added. This evidence points to discontinuity in the occupation sequence; that is, a fairly prolonged period of abandonment prior to the re-occupation of the site. Profound changes in both the building techniques and the physical articulation of



KEY

NATURAL FEATURES	
	Contours (at 5m intervals)
	Boulders and outcropping rock
	Stream
	Limit of boggy ground
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	
	Field banks
	Scooped settlements
	Trackways
	Miscellaneous structures
	Scarp
	Quarrying
MODERN FEATURES	
	Field walls
	Fences

Figure 21:
Phase plan of the landscape around West Hill
(Romano-British period) 55

social units suggest a similar picture. The evidence for Iron Age occupation is restricted to a single possible timber roundhouse, apparently enclosed only by the main rampart. In contrast, the evidence for Romano-British settlement is abundant, comprising at least five small compounds within the larger enclosure, each formed by two or three stone-built roundhouses facing onto a communal 'yard'. In this respect, the settlement within the hillfort has much in common with the scooped settlements on the hillsides and the enclosed settlement that overlies the outer enclosure. The outer enclosure itself is markedly different in its design and construction technique. The coursed wall of the Iron Age rampart was skillfully constructed using quarried blocks, apparently to a pre-conceived plan. In contrast, the new outer enclosure was formed essentially by a low earthen bank revetted by boulders and slabs of stone set on edge, requiring much less time and skill. Only the larger and more carefully designed sections flanking the entrance suggest that there was still a concern for architectural display. The irregular line of the circuit and its bizarre relationship to the topography on the north-western side of the hill suggest that the planning was to some extent 'on the hoof', perhaps influenced by the technique of working in gangs and partly dictated by the line of the earlier rampart. It is possible that a timber palisade or hedge surmounted the bank, but it clearly was not defensive to the same degree as the earlier rampart. Yet it is uncertain how well it would have functioned as an enclosure for livestock, as previous investigators have suggested, given that the barrier on the north-west seems to have been of negligible size and poorly sited in relation to the topography. The post-medieval cultivation that covers the majority of the interior has perhaps eradicated the surface traces of other activities, such as the sites of ancillary structures or cultivation. Alternatively, it is possible that the outer enclosure merely served to mark the perimeter of the settlement.

The enclosed settlement that overlies the bank of the outer enclosure, at least in its eventual form, seems to represent the latest episode of Romano-British occupation on the site. Yet as Eric Geary of the Ordnance Survey perceptively remarked in 1955, the constructional technique of the perimeter of the enclosed settlement is so similar to that of the bank of the outer enclosure that it may be that very little time elapsed between the two constructional events (NMRA). As mentioned above, while the enclosed settlement is larger and more carefully constructed than the compounds within the hillfort, it essentially shows very little difference in the social relations implied by the physical articulation of the buildings. Even the existence of a building immediately outside the compound (Structure 24) may find a parallel in the location of the possible Structure 14. However, there appears to have been somewhat greater emphasis, at least in the eventual form of the enclosed settlement, on communal areas and perhaps on communal resources, if the eight smaller structures can be interpreted as stores or other ancillary buildings. It is also perhaps worth commenting on the passing similarity of the design of enclosed settlement to the layout of a Roman villa, with courtyards at the front entered through a central gateway in a straight 'facade', and the larger (presumably domestic) structures sited at the rear. It has been suggested that the enclosure may represent an example of 3rd to 4th century Romano-British settlement (Burgess 1984, 172). While there is no direct support for such precise dating, it may be that the design of the enclosed settlement reflects the prolonged influence of a Roman culture firmly established in the south. Yet the more-or-less circular plans of the buildings suggest that traditional domestic architecture was still favoured, as indeed it was on numerous villa sites well within the bounds of Roman Britain. Radiocarbon determinations from the excavations on Wether Hill, overlooking the Ingram Valley, hint that one of the stone-built roundhouses overlying the rampart of the hillfort may even have outlasted the period of Roman occupation (Topping and McOmish 2000, 6). Furthermore, the total

absence of pottery from the disturbed portions of the earthworks on West Hill suggests that the inhabitants may have used wood or leather for their containers, and had not followed the typically Roman pattern of using diverse ceramics.

Another feature potentially of later Romano-British date is the mound with the small structure on top of it, which overlies the bank of the outer enclosure and lies in close proximity to the Romano-British settlement. However, if the bank was indeed surmounted by a hedge or palisade, the siting of the mound would tend to suggest that it is of considerably later origin. The function of the structure on top of the mound is uncertain: its elevated position offers good visibility, but relatively little shelter from the wind, so it cannot be interpreted with confidence as, for example, a shepherd's look-out. It is possible that the mound was constructed to provide good drainage for the structure on the top, but there is no evidence that the stones underwent burning, as they might be expected to if the structure was a kiln or bread-oven. Without excavation, the purpose of the feature is likely to remain an enigma.

Scooped settlements are widely accepted as being a form of settlement of Romano-British origin, and the available excavated evidence suggests that few were occupied after the 2nd century (Jobey 1960; 1962; Burgess 1984, 164-72). However, excavation of a scooped settlement at Hetha Burn raised the possibility that some at least may have originated in the late prehistoric period (Burgess 1970). Most of the six examples at West Hill are smaller than 'classic' sites such as the well preserved examples nearby on the eastern slope of Hethpool Bell and 700m south-west of Torleehouse, but they are nonetheless of typical form. On this basis, they can be interpreted with some confidence as being Romano-British, or at the earliest late Iron Age. Beyond this, the evidence for their more precise dating is slight, in the relative scarcity of stratigraphic relationships to other features. Although it has been noted above that some of the settlements overlie prehistoric cultivation terraces, this is unhelpful since it is possible that the terraces developed in the Bronze Age and had been abandoned for many centuries by the time the settlements were built. Likewise, while some of the settlements were clearly damaged by medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, this is also unhelpful since this phase of arable agriculture may have begun in the 13th to 14th centuries or even later. Perhaps the most revealing relationships are between some of the scooped settlements and field boundary banks, although the chronological implications are seldom clear-cut. The banks appear to be broadly contemporary with Trackways 1 to 4, and the vestigial remains of Trackway 3 in turn suggest that the trackways were contemporary with the use of the outer enclosure around the hillfort. The construction technique of revetting earthen banks with upright slabs, used for the outer enclosure and the enclosed settlement, is also employed along sections of the field banks. In short, the scooped enclosures can be assigned to the Romano-British period in broad terms, as their form would suggest. However, there may be a significant functional or social difference implied by the different ways in which the scooped settlements and the settlements on the summit relate to the field pattern. The scooped settlements lie within the field system and are physically linked to the boundary banks in some cases. In contrast, the settlements on the summit lie outside the cultivated area (assuming the ditches of Banks 8, 9 and 14 are on the outer sides of the boundaries) and slightly remote from it.

While the settlement remains on the summit of West Hill suggest discontinuity in the sequence of occupation, the same is not true of the agricultural landscape, on the evidence of the complex evolution of the system of field boundary banks. Like the earlier Bank 1, which has tentatively been interpreted as being of Iron Age date, Bank 2 may have acted as a major 'ranch boundary' enclosing a territory of at least 50ha

around the base of the hill. The short stretches of Banks 23, 24 and 25 that can be identified preclude certainty, but the surviving arcs of both boundaries curve in the opposite direction from Bank 2. This may indicate that there were similar territorial boundaries relating to settlements on the southern side of the valley, perhaps those in the vicinity of Torleehouse. Within the area enclosed by Bank 2, field banks appear to have radiated out from the hilltop, sub-dividing not only the fertile lower slopes on the south-eastern side of the hill, but also the steeper areas unsuitable for arable cultivation on the north-east. The existence of what appear to be pens for livestock management (Miscellaneous 1) in the midst of the field system also points to a mixed farming regime, with both arable and pastoral land-use. The settlements scattered across the hill therefore seem to have been components of a landscape that was intensively used in the Romano-British period.

The medieval period, 1066 - 1540 (see Figure 22)

It is possible that remains of the early medieval period have not been recognised as such, or survive only as sub-surface remains, but the English Heritage investigation has not identified anything that can be ascribed even tentatively to that period. In the Cheviots, research into the exploitation of the landscape in later medieval times has been comparatively neglected at the expense of the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The remains of this period on West Hill are for the most part limited to evidence for arable and pastoral land-use, but as such they are no less impressive than the comparable remains of earlier periods, with open fields of broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation covering large tracts of the area investigated. This system of land tenure and technique of ploughing are generally considered to be characteristic of the later medieval period, but may have survived until much later in rural areas of Northumberland. The activity may relate to the growth of Kirknewton, probably in the early centuries of the second millennium. There is documentary evidence for the foundation of a hospital for three poor men in the village in 1250-60, which was dissolved after 1369 (Knowles and Hadcock 1953, 282) and the existence of a large quadrangular fortified tower by 1415 (Vickers 1922, 150-1). The local population must have been considerably larger than today in order to support these two institutions, and it is possible that the period saw the expansion of farmland into areas to the south of West Hill that had long lain disused. On the other hand, the broad ridge-and-furrow is directly overlain by narrower ridges, which are generally held to be of late medieval or post-medieval date. It is therefore possible that the land was not farmed until around the mid-16th century. In either case, the earthwork traces of the cultivation ridges are not pronounced, so it seems likely that the episode was fairly short-lived and that the cultivated area soon contracted to the part of the north-eastern slope closest to the village. The fact that the boundary of this diminished area was formalised at some point by the building of a substantial boundary bank or 'head dyke' suggests that the extent of the land farmed by the village remained fairly constant for a considerable period.

The worn trackways and droveway running from Kirknewton up the valley to the east of West Hill and onto the hillside south of Torleehouse suggest that the livestock may have been as intensively managed as the arable farmland. The uplands were probably used as common pasture, especially during the summer months, and the droveway presumably allowed large numbers of animals to be herded through the open fields without risk of damaging the crops. Beyond the cultivated fields, the droveway ends and trackways fan out onto the slopes above Torleehouse.

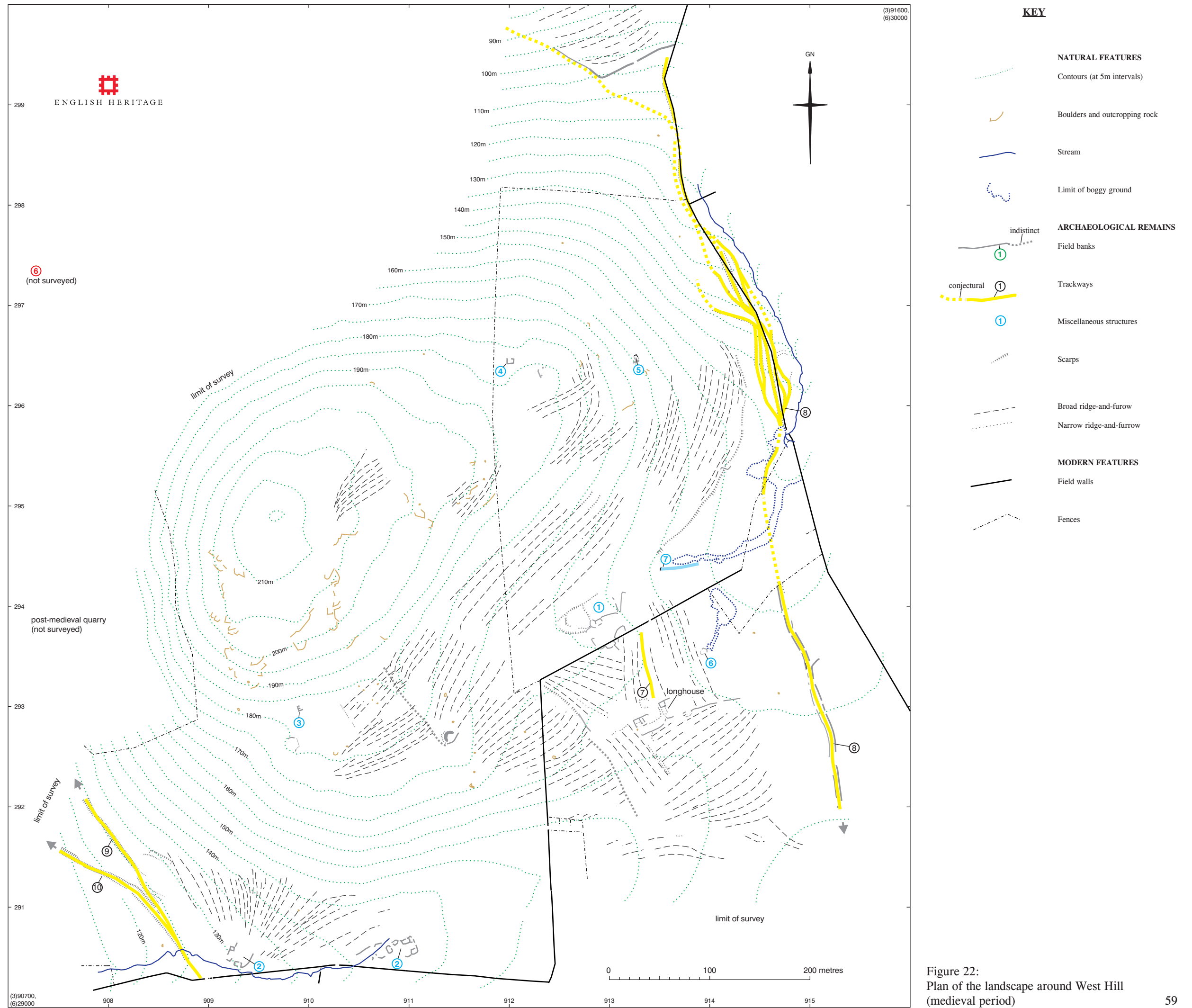
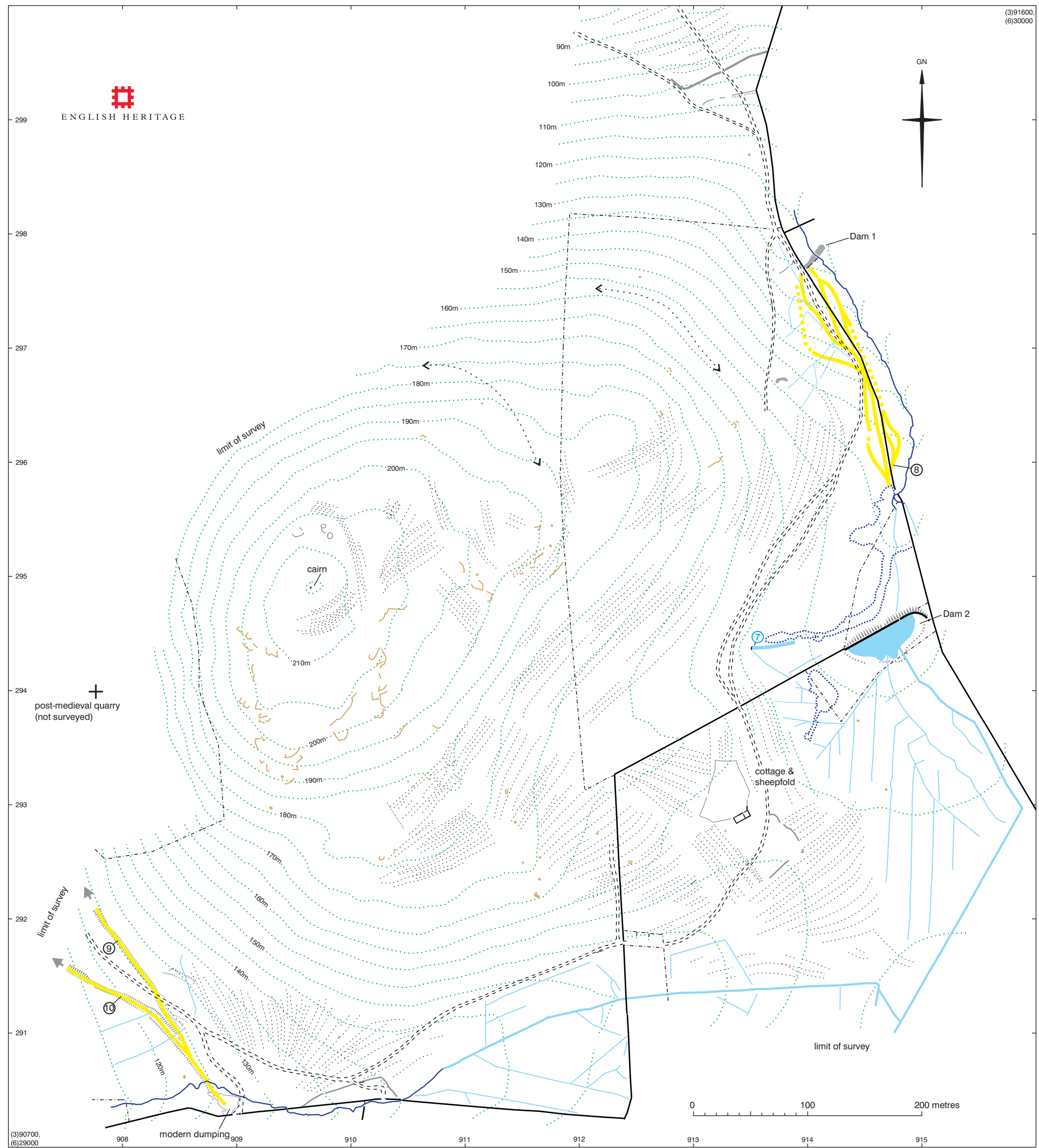


Figure 22:
Plan of the landscape around West Hill
(medieval period)

The longhouse on the saddle to the south-east of West Hill probably represents one of a string of late medieval farmsteads scattered along the lower slopes of the College Valley. A similar example, which may have continued in use into the post-medieval period, is to be found at Harrowbog, 2.7kms to the south-west (Topping 2000). The farm at West Hill, with yards, outbuildings and an arrangement of open fields around it, seems to represent a classic example of a medieval farmstead. The contraction of the cultivated area associated with the village of Kirknewton may provide a context for the abandonment of the building.

The post-medieval period, 1540 to present day (see Figure 23)

The existence of the later cottage on the same site seems to suggest that the longhouse may have survived into the post-medieval period. However, the cottage was built entirely from scratch without incorporating any elements of earlier walling, which strongly suggests that little or nothing of the medieval building remained sufficiently intact. On balance, it seems more probable that it was the ready availability of building material which attracted the later occupants the same site. The uncertain dating of the narrow ridge-and-furrow cultivation has already been discussed, but some, if not all, of the ploughing seems to have been associated with the occupation of the cottage. Apart from this arable agriculture, the existence of the various small shelters and stock enclosures suggests that the land was used predominantly for grazing. The post-medieval period thus seems to have witnessed the transition of West Hill from an intensively used arable landscape to the relatively marginal land that it is today.



KEY

- NATURAL FEATURES**
- Contours (at 5m intervals)
- Boulders and outcropping rock
- Stream
- Limit of boggy ground
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**
- Trackways
- Scarps
- Narrow ridge-and-furrow
- Improvement ploughing (indication of direction)
- Field walls
- MODERN FEATURES**
- Fences
- Drainage channels or pipe drains (upcast material not shown)
- Tracks

Figure 23:
Plan of the landscape around West Hill
(post-medieval period)

6. METHODOLOGY

The field investigation was carried out by Alastair Oswald and Marcus Jecock, with assistance from Stewart Ainsworth, Trevor Pearson and Bernard Thomason. Pete Topping also provided valuable comment in the field. Medium-format photographic recording was carried out by Bob Skingle. In addition, a number of digital photographs taken by Alastair Oswald are held on disk as part of the project archive.

The measured survey of the hillfort, outer enclosure and Romano-British enclosed settlement was based upon points laid out using a Leica TC1610 Electronic Theodolite with integral Electromagnetic Distance Measurement (Total Station), from a baseline traverse of two stations. From these stations, observations were logged to fix a network of additional temporary control points, from which the earthworks were plotted using hand tapes by conventional graphical techniques. Using a Trimble 4800 dual frequency Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system, the stations of the traverse were subsequently related to the National Grid (OSGB36), through a transformation programme based on their positions relative to three Ordnance Survey trigonometrical pillars. These were located respectively on the summit of Gains Law, 5kms to the east at NGR NT 95588 28164, Whitton Hill, 6.5kms to the north-east at NGR NT 92809 34584, and Linton Hill, 11.5kms to the west at NGR NT 78735 27954. Both the stations of the baseline traverse were permanently marked using brass rivets, and their National Grid references were calculated on the basis of the GPS data. Their positions are indicated on the 1:1000 plans and in Appendix 2. Sufficient GPS data were gathered to contour the immediate vicinity of the hillfort at 1m intervals and the remainder of the survey area at 5m intervals. The resulting plan was plotted at 1:2500 scale via Key TerraFirma, AutoCAD and Coreldraw software.

The hand drawn archive plan and CAD-based drawings were prepared using CorelDraw 8 software by Alastair Oswald. The report was researched and written by Alastair Oswald, and edited by Stewart Ainsworth.

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 31).

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Tim Gates gave permission to reproduce his aerial photographs, and the Duke of Northumberland gave permission to reproduce MacLauchlan's plan of the earthworks.

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APPENDIX 1. Table of NMR numbers linked to the survey

Iron Age hillfort	NT 9096 2951	NT 92 NW 31
Earlier enclosure	NT 9096 2951	NT 92 NW 112
?Romano-British outer enclosure and settlement within the hillfort	NT 9097 2951	NT 92 NW 113
Romano-British enclosed settlement	NT 9102 2955	NT 92 NW 114
Mound	NT 90976 29448	NT 92 NW 115
19thC cairn & trig. point	NT 90966 29492	NT 92 NW 116
Later Neolithic cup-marked boulder	NT 91256 29201	NT 92 NW 117
Alleged prehistoric stone circle	NT 9163 2909	NT 92 NW 54
Bronze Age burnt mound or barrow	NT 9114 2911	NT 92 NW 118
?Neolithic or Bronze Age ring cairn	NT 9114 2927	NT 92 NW 119
?Neolithic or Bronze Age cairn	NT 9102 2927	NT 92 NW 120
Prehistoric/Romano-British field system and cairnfield	NT 911 294	NT 92 NW 121
Alleged Iron Age 'homestead' (possibly part of Miscellaneous 1)	NT 9136 2943	NT 92 NW 28
Alleged Iron Age 'homestead'	NT 9128 2984	NT 92 NW 29
Romano-British scooped settlement (1)	NT 9132 2966	NT 92 NW 122
Romano-British scooped settlement (2)	NT 9137 2967	NT 92 NW 123
Romano-British scooped settlement (3)	NT 9124 2970	NT 92 NW 124
Romano-British scooped settlement (4)	NT 9132 2953	NT 92 NW 125
Romano-British scooped settlement (5)	NT 9104 2911	NT 92 NW 126
Romano-British scooped settlement (6)	NT 9070 2975	NT 92 NW 33
Romano-British trackways (1, 2, 3 and 5)	NT 9107 2935 - NT 9109 2956	NT 92 NW 127
Romano-British trackway (4)	NT 9088 2953 - NT 9135 2988	NT 92 NW 128
Romano-British trackway (6)	NT 9124 2903	not given
Medieval longhouse and post-medieval cottage with associated field systems	NT 9134 2929	NT 92 NW 129
Medieval field system	NT 913 295	NT 92 NW 130
Medieval field system	NT 913 299	NT 92 NW 131
Romano-British and/or medieval stock pens (Miscellaneous 1)	NT 9109 2906	NT 92 NW 132

Medieval or later stock pens or sheilings (Miscellaneous 2)	NT 9093 2905 NT 9109 2905	NT 92 NW 133
Medieval or later structure (Miscellaneous 3)	NT 90990 29300	NT 92 NW 134
Medieval or later structure (Miscellaneous 4)	NT 91201 29646	NT 92 NW 135
Medieval or later structure (Miscellaneous 5)	NT 91327 29650	not given -see NT 92 NW 122
Medieval or later structure (Miscellaneous 6)	NT 91394 29356	NT 92 NW 27
Medieval or later walling (Miscellaneous 7)	NT 91351 29439	not given
Medieval trackway (7)	NT 9132 2940 - NT 9135 2930	not given - see NT 92 NW 129
Medieval trackways (?same as Trackway 8)	NT 9159 2891	NT 92 NW 36
Medieval trackway or droveway (8)	NT 9139 2979 - NT 9154 2911	NT 92 NW 136
Post-medieval trackway (9)	NT 9078 2921 - NT 9085 2909	not given
Post-medieval trackway (10)	NT 9075 2916 - NT 9090 2903	not given
?Romano-British quarry	NT 9092 2955	NT 92 NW 137
?Romano-British quarry	NT 9103 2963	NT 92 NW 138
Post-medieval quarry	NT 9079 2940	NT 92 NW 139
Post-medieval dam (1)	NT 9141 2978	NT 92 NW 140
19thC dam and reservoir	NT 9147 2946	NT 92 NW 141
19thC improvement ploughing	NT 912 296	not given

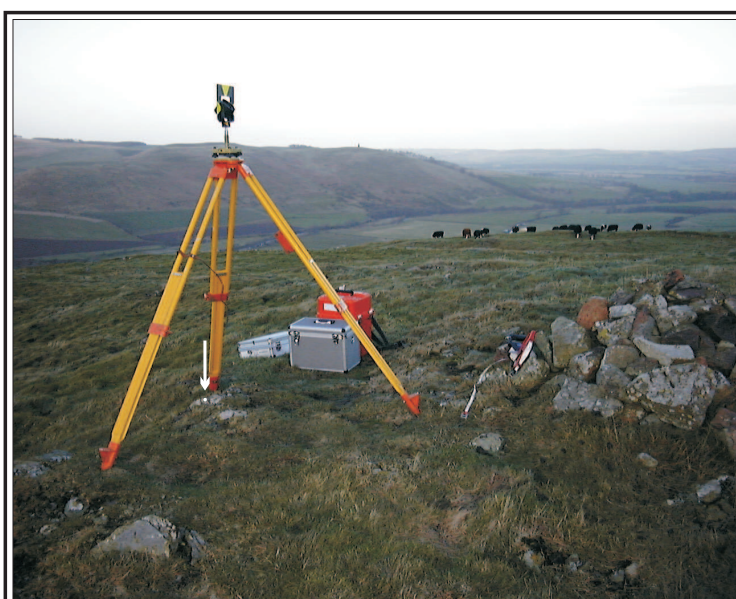
APPENDIX 2. Locations of permanent survey stations



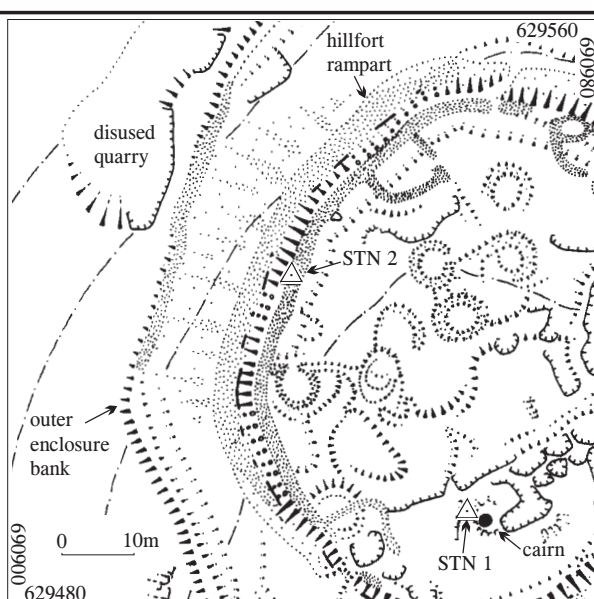
ENGLISH HERITAGE SURVEY STATION INFORMATION

SITE NAME	WEST HILL, NORTHUMBERLAND		
Station number	STN 1	Status	Permanent
Type of Mark	Brass rivet	NMR number	NT 92 NW 31
Date of Survey	Jan 2000	Sam number	Northumberland 221
Office of origin	York	RSM number	_____
Surveyor(s)	AO, MJ, BT	Neg number	_____

Co-ordinate Scheme	Eastings	Northings	Height
OS National Grid	390962.613	629492.743	215.1m



View from south-west



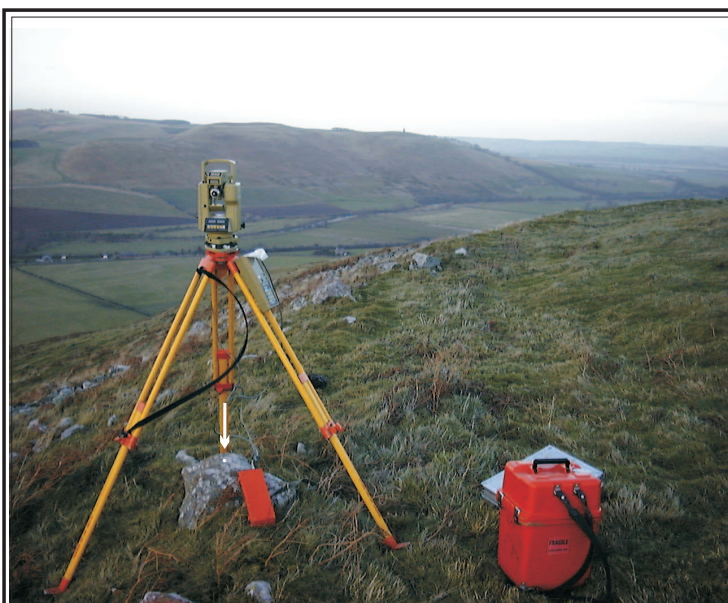
Plan at 1:1000 scale



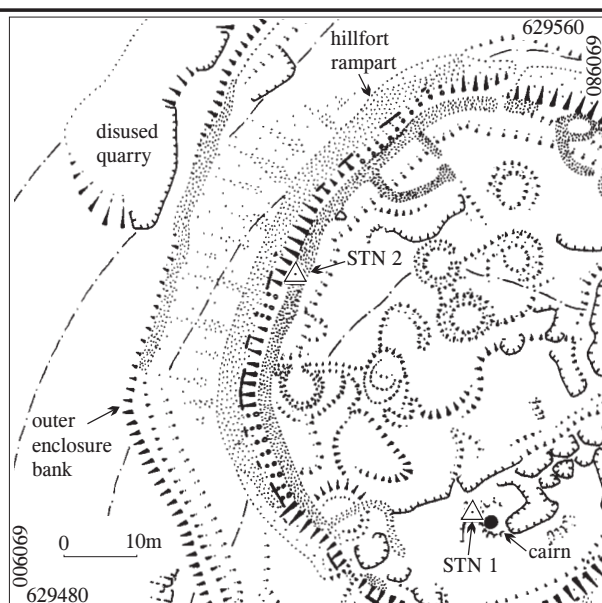
ENGLISH HERITAGE
SURVEY STATION INFORMATION

SITE NAME	WEST HILL, NORTHUMBERLAND		
Station number	STN 2	Status	Permanent
Type of Mark	Brass rivet	NMR number	NT 92 NW 31
Date of Survey	Jan 2000	Sam number	Northumberland 221
Office of origin	York	RSM number	_____
Surveyor(s)	AO, MJ, BT	Neg number	_____

Co-ordinate Scheme	Eastings	Northings	Height
OS National Grid	390938.508	629525.505	208.7m



View from south-west



Plan at 1:1000 scale