Excavations at Hoddom, Dumfriesshire

An Early Ecclesiastical Site in South-west Scotland

CHRISTOPHER LOWE

with specialist contributions by

Daphne Brooke, Stephen Carter, Derek Craig, Anne Crone, Magnar Dalland, Timothy Holden, Lawrence Keppie, Coralie Mills, Effie Photos-Jones, Elizabeth Pirie, Richard Tipping and Bruce Walker

> Principal Illustrator Mike Middleton

Edinburgh 2006 SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND Cover image: © Historic Scotland

Published in 2006 by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Author: Christopher Lowe

> Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Royal Museum of Scotland Chambers Street Edinburgh EH1 1JF Tel: 0131 247 4115 Fax: 0131 247 4163

Email: administration@socantscot.org Website: www.socantscot.org

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

10-digit ISBN 0 903903 39 3 13-digit ISBN 978 0 903903 39 4

Copyright © Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and individual authors, 2006



All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher. Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The Society gratefully acknowledges grant-aid towards the publication of this volume from Historic Scotland.



Typeset by Waverley Typesetters, Fakenham, Norfolk Design and production by Lawrie Law and Alison Rae Manufactured in Great Britain by The Bath Press, Bath

Contents

List of contributors	xii
List of figures	xiii
List of plates	xvi
Acknowledgements	xvii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 PREVIOUS DISCOVERIES AT HODDOM	5
THE 1915 AND 1952 EXCAVATIONS	5
STRAY FINDS, PRE-1991	8
Northumbrian carved stones	9
Crosier fragments	9
Romanesque grave-slabs	9
CROPMARKS AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (1981)	10
CONCLUSIONS	11
3 PROJECT DESIGN AND SURVEY	13
INTRODUCTION	13
METHOD	14
Phase 1 fieldwork programme	14
Phase 2 fieldwork programme	14
Phase 3 fieldwork programme	14
MAP EVIDENCE	14
The parish graveyard: before and after 1779	17
THE CROPMARK EVIDENCE	19
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	20
Introduction	20
Survey method	20
Magnetic susceptibility analysis	20
Summary of results	20
THE POST-PLOUGHING SURVEY	23
Introduction	23
Objectives	23
Method	23
Summary of results	23
Discoveries post-1991	26
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY	26
Introduction	26
Results	26

SOIL SURVEY S	Stephen Carter	26
The geomorphol	logy and soils at Hoddom	26
The soil survey		27
Soil erosion and	accumulation	27
Impact on archae	eological stratigraphy	27
Summary		27
4 THE EXCAVATI	ED STRUCTURES	31
INTRODUCTION	N	31
Summary		31
The site record		31
THE ENCLOSUR	RE EARTHWORK	34
The Enclosure D	Pitch	36
The Palisade		38
The Bank		39
THE BUILDINGS		39
Structure 1		39
Structure 2		48
Structure 3		52
Structure 4		56
Structure 5		59
Structure 6		59
Structure 7		67
Structure 8		72
Structure 9		76
Structure 10		79
Structure 11		81
Structure 12		94
Structure 13		94
Structure 14		96
Structure 15		99
MISCELLANEOU	JS FEATURES	102
THE CORN-DRY	YING KILNS AT HODDOM Timothy Holden	102
The evidence of	the buildings	102
Type 1: pit kiln	ns with wattle-and-daub superstructures inside large rectangular timber buildings	102
Type 2: freestan	nding kilns with stone footings inside timber/timber-and-stone buildings	105
	nding stone-built kilns inside stone-built structure	106
Type 4: 'keyho		107
Discussion of th		107
	the plant remains	110
Why dry corn?		110
	nd conflagrations	110
Kiln fuel		111
Other archaeolo	gical examples	113

5	ARTEFACTS	115
	ROMAN INSCRIBED STONES Lawrence Keppie	115
	Catalogue	115
	Hoddom 1 (SF327)	115
	Hoddom 2 (SF1557)	118
	Hoddom 3 (SF1588)	121
	Birrens fort and its garrisons	121
	Hoddom: the connection with Birrens	122
	Conclusion	123
	THE LATER CARVED STONE ASSEMBLAGE Derek Craig	123
	Catalogue (lithological identifications by Dianne Dixon)	124
	Cross-slab (SF50/1353)	124
	Cross-shaft (SF1350)	126
	Cross-slab (SF26)	126
	Cross-slab (SF1352)	127
	Cross-slab (SF32)	128
	Cross-slab (SF34)	128
	Cross-slab (SF29)	129
	Cross-slab (SF27)	130
	Cross-slab (SF33)	130
	Cross-incised stone (SF151)	131
	Dating	131
	Discussion	131
	COINS Elizabeth Pirie	132
	Catalogue	133
	Coin (SF1132)	133
	Coin (SF919)	133
	Discussion	133
	WOODEN ARTEFACTS Anne Crone	134
	The alder bowl	135
	The willow bowl	136
	Discussion	136
	METALLURGICAL WASTE Effie Photos-Jones	137
	Introduction	137
	Typological classification	137
	Method	137
	Discussion of results	139
	Smithing hearth bottoms	139
	'Froth-and-base' fragments	139
	Fragments showing reaction with hearth floor	140
	Amorphous lumps	141
	Metallurgical ceramics	141
	Cast iron	141
	The wrought iron finds	142
	Conclusions	142

6	AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT	145
	INTRODUCTION Coralie M Mills	145
	LANDSCAPE AND LAND-USE CHANGE IN THE EARLY HISTORIC PERIOD ON THE	
	NORTHERN SOLWAY PLAIN Richard Tipping	146
	The Data-set	146
	Agricultural Intensification in the Late Iron Age	146
	Decline and Recovery in the Proto-historic Period	147
	Settlement Continuity in the Early Historic Period	147
	THE CARBONISED WOOD Anne Crone	148
	Method	148
	Discussion	148
	THE BOTANICAL EVIDENCE Timothy Holden	150
	Method	150
	Discussion	150
	Oats	150
	Barley	151
	Rye	152
	Wheat	152
	Weed seeds	153
	Reworking	154
	Crops and kilning	155
7	THE RADIOCARBON DATES	157
	STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RADIOCARBON DATES Magnar Dalland	161
	Periodicity	161
	The radiocarbon dates associated with S1	162
	The dating of Building S1	163
	The dating of Building S2	163
	Issues of contemporaneity	164
	Encroachment onto the enclosure earthwork	165
	The dating of Building S6	165
	The dating of Building S7	166
	The chronological relationship of Buildings S9 and S10	166
	The chronological relationship of Buildings S10 and S11	167
	The duration of Building S14	167
	The chronological relationship of S14 and the secondary kiln in S11.3	167
	The duration of Building S11	167
8	ARCHAEOLOGICAL MODEL	169
	PHASING AND THE SITE DEVELOPMENT MODEL	169
	Introduction	169
	Phase 1 [c. 650]: the Enclosure Earthwork and Buildings S8 and S6.1	171
	Phases 2 and 3 [c. 650-750]: Buildings S9 and S10	173
	Phase 4 [c. 750-800]: Buildings S11.1 and S1, S2, S6.2, S7.1 and ? S12	173
	Phase 5 [c. 800-900]: Buildings S11.2 and S4, S7.2 and Gully F404	176
	Phase 6 [c. 900-1000]: Buildings S11.3 and S3 and S13	177
	Phase 7 [c. 1000–1250]: Buildings S5, S14, S15 and North Enclosure F207	179

THE BUILDINGS AND THEIR CULTURAL AFFILIATION	180
Introduction	180
Building form	181
Construction method and comparanda	183
The buildings at Hoddom: a vernacular perspective Bruce Walker	184
THE ENCLOSURE AND THE USE OF SPACE	186
Introduction	186
How was the enclosure entered?	186
How was the ground divided inside the enclosure?	187
9 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND HISTORICAL MODEL	191
INTRODUCTION	191
A BRITISH ECCLESIASTICAL CENTRE?	191
A NORTHUMBRIAN MONASTERY?	192
A CENTRAL PLACE?	195
A PERIPHERAL PLACE?	196
A FORGOTTEN PLACE?	198
APPENDIX 1: THE PLACE-NAMES OF SOUTHERN ANNANDALE Daphne Brooke	199
HODDOM AND ECCLEFECHAN	199
THE PLACE-NAMES OF SOUTHERN ANNANDALE	199
Pre-Northumbrian Brittonic place-names	199
Old English place-names	201
Scandinavian place-names	202
Post-Northumbrian Brittonic place-names	203
Gaelic place-names	204
Bibliography	205
Index	214

List of contributors

DR STEPHEN CARTER
Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

DR DEREK CRAIG

Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE

DR ANNE CRONE

AOC Scotland Ltd, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian EH20 9SY

MAGNAR DALLAND

Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

DR TIMOTHY HOLDEN

Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

PROFESSOR LAWRENCE KEPPIE
Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow G12 8QQ

DR CHRISTOPHER LOWE

Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

MIKE MIDDLETON

Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

DR CORALIE MILLS

AOC Scotland Ltd, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian EH20 9SY

DR EFFIE PHOTOS-JONES SASAA, 7 Belgrave Terrace, Glasgow G12 8JD

DR RICHARD TIPPING

School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA

DR BRUCE WALKER

149 Strathearn Road, West Ferry, Dundee DD5 1BR

Editor's Note:

Sadly, since the time of writing their contributions to this book, Daphne Brook and Elizabeth Pirie have died.