## CONTENTS

*Abstract*  
xxix  
*Acknowledgements*  
xxi  

1 INTRODUCTION  
1.1 The geological setting of the Over Rig enclosure  
1.2 The current background to the project  
1.3 The background to, and a description of, the sites and the landscape around them  

2 THE PREVIOUS RECOGNITION AND INVESTIGATION OF IRON AGE AND ROMAN SITES IN THE AREA  
2.1 Early antiquarian observations  
2.2 Roman roads in Eskdale  
2.3 The Roman fortlet at Raeburnfoot  
2.4 The Roman temporary camp at Raeburnfoot and its function  
2.5 A review of the likely scale and impact of ergonomic input to the SW–NE (Birrens to Newstead) Roman road  

3 THE FIELD SURVEY, 1984–1985  
3.1 Introduction  
3.2 The Deil's Jingle  
3.3 Other relatively recent earthworks  
3.4 Linear earthworks probably associated with a late prehistoric enclosure system  
3.5 Enclosures and other sites within the earthwork complex  
3.6 The enclosure at Boonies  
3.7 Other settlements of late Iron Age date recently excavated in south-west Scotland  
3.8 The distribution and scale of farmstead-type enclosures in the Upper Esk and tributary valleys  

4 EXCAVATION AT CASTLE O’ER HILLFORT  
4.1 The background  
4.2 Analysis of the field remains visible within the hillfort  
4.2.1 Houses set upon platforms with scarped rearward edges and levelled apron
4.2.2 Ring-groove houses 44
4.2.3 Ring-ditch houses 44
4.2.4 The observed sequence at Castle O’er 46

5 BAILIEHILL HILLFORT, CAMP HILL 51

6 CASTLE O’ER HILLFORT, SITE I: THE INNER SOUTH-WEST ENTRANCE OF THE PHASE 4 HILLFORT 55
   6.1 Introduction 55
   6.2 The roadway and gate structure 55

7 CASTLE O’ER HILLFORT, SITE II: THE OUTER SOUTH-WEST ENTRANCE OF THE PHASE 4A HILLFORT 61
   7.1 Introduction 61
   7.2 The bank and its structure 61
   7.3 The roadway/entrance and gate structure 65
   7.4 The ditch on Site II 70
   7.5 A summary of development at Castle O’er hillfort 71
      7.5.1 Phase 1 71
      7.5.2 Phase 2 71
      7.5.3 Phase 3 72
      7.5.4 Phase 4 72
      7.5.5 Phase 4A (west) 72
      7.5.6 Phase 4B 73
      7.5.7 Phase 4C 73

8 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE LINEAR EARTHWORK SYSTEM IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CASTLE O’ER HILLFORT (SITES III, IV, V AND VI) 75
   8.1 Linear earthwork Site III 75
   8.2 Linear earthwork Site IV 78
   8.3 Linear earthwork Site V 78
   8.4 Linear earthwork Site VI 80
   8.5 Conclusions concerning the linear earthwork system 83

9 THE OVER RIG (RING OF SCAUR) ENCLOSURE 85
   9.1 Introduction 85
   9.2 Previous work on the site 87
   9.3 Geomorphological evolution of Over Rig and future threats 88

10 THE EXCAVATION OF THE OVER RIG ENCLOSURE 91
   10.1 The interior platform 91
10.2 Structure 1 – the stone setting 96
10.3 The function of Structure 1 97
10.4 The palisade within the enclosure ditch 97
10.5 Structure 2 – a double ring-groove house-type structure 100
10.6 Structure 3 and 3A – double ring-groove structures of two phases 104
10.7 Other features on the interior platform 108
10.8 The sequence on the internal platform 110
10.9 The ditch excavation – introduction 110
10.10 The ditch sequences 112
10.11 The median and outer ditches 130
10.12 Discussion of the form of the site at Over Rig 130

11 POLLEN ANALYSIS OF THE PEAT BENEATH THE CONSOLIDATION LAYER ON THE INNER PLATFORM OF THE SITE AT OVER RIG
Richard Tipping, Bill Boyd and David Robinson 133
11.1 The sub-site peat 133
11.2 $^{14}$C dating 133
11.3 Later prehistoric vegetation and land-use history 137
  11.3.1 Sub-site peat lpaz 1 139
  11.3.2 Sub-site peat lpaz 3 139
  11.3.3 Sub-site peat lpaz 4 140
  11.3.4 Sub-site peat lpaz 5a 140
11.4 Discussion 140

12 ANALYSES OF THE BASAL MINEROGENIC SEDIMENTS IN DITCH UNITS 5 AND 6
Richard Tipping 143
12.1 The basal minerogenic fills 143
12.2 Sediment stratigraphies 143
  12.2.1 Ditch Unit 5 143
  12.2.2 Ditch Unit 6 146
12.3 Discussion 146
12.4 Pollen analysis 146
  12.4.1 Introduction 146
  12.4.2 Chronology 149
  12.4.3 Pollen preservation characteristics and pollen analyses from demonstrably in-washed sediment at DU5 155
  12.4.4 The changing ditch environments 155
  12.4.5 Woodland, scrub and heath 157
  12.4.6 Agriculture 158
12.5 Discussion 159
13 HISTORIC PERIOD VEGETATION AND LAND-USE HISTORY
FROM POLLEN ANALYSES AT DITCH UNIT 6  Richard Tipping

13.1 Introduction 161
13.1.2 Peat stratigraphy 161

13.2 Chronological construction 162
13.2.1 14C assays on pieces of wood 162
13.2.2 14C assays on amorphous peat 163
13.2.3 210Pb assays of Bed 9 163

13.3 Discussion 168
13.3.1 Vegetation and land-use history 169
13.3.1.1 Lpaz DU6C (Roman Iron Age to the early historic period) 170
13.3.1.2 Lpaz DU6D (early historic period to the beginning of the high medieval period) 171
13.3.1.3 Lpaz DU6E (the high and later medieval periods) 171
13.3.1.4 Lpaz DU6F (the early modern period) 172

13.4 Discussion 173

14 OVER RIG: THE WOOD ASSEMBLAGE  Dr B A Crone

14.1 Introduction 177
14.2 Artefacts 177
14.3 Structural pieces 181
14.4 Woodworking debris 182
14.5 Species composition 185
14.6 Discussion 186
14.7 Catalogue of illustrated wooden objects 187

15 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

15.1 Introduction 191
15.2 The hillfort sequence – parallels, context and function 191
15.2.1 Phase 1 – a palisaded settlement? 191
15.2.2 Phase 2 – the univallate hillfort 192
15.2.3 Phase 3 – the enclosed landscape with linear earthworks around the hillfort 193
15.2.4 Phase 4 – the stone-walled enclosure 193
15.3 Bailiehill Fort 193
15.4 Comparative annex systems elsewhere in Northern Britain 194
15.5 The arrival of Roman forces in North Britain 201
15.6 The Roman military requirement for cattle/beef (and leather and horn) 204
15.6.1 The requirement and likely volume of Roman army supply at the west end of the Tyne–Solway line 204
15.6.2 The likely provenance and means of cattle supply 207
15.6.3 The production of cattle 209
15.7 The Roman military requirement for ponies 210
15.7.1 The tradition of chariot and cavalry pony production in Britain 210
15.7.2 Ponies in Iron Age and Roman Britain, their life cycle and use 212
15.7.3 The production of the ponies 216
15.8 Phase 4 – the stone-walled (partly vitrified) fort at Castle O’er in its Scottish context 218

16 THE OVER RIG ENCLOSURE: ITS PARALLELS, FUNCTIONS AND ORIGINS 227
16.1 Parallels sought in south-west Scotland 227
16.2 Other possible origins leading to the adoption of auditorial structures 230
16.3 Suggestion in literary sources 230
16.4 Possible Irish parallels 230
16.5 Overall summary and conclusion 234

Appendix 1 Over Rig; Glass Bangles The late Dr R.B.K. Stevenson 237
Appendix 2 Over Rig and Castle O’er; the faunal assemblage Lin Barnetson MA, FSA Scot 238
Appendix 3 Scooped farmstead sites in the Upper Esk Valley and tributaries 242
Appendix 4 Palisaded settlements within 20km radius of Castle O’er 251
Appendix 5 Vitrified forts recognised since MacKie, 1976 253

Bibliography 257
Index 267