

Contents

List of Figures	ix
Acknowledgements	xvii
Contributors	xviii
Abbreviations	xix
Chapter 1 Background to the Habitats and Hillforts Project	1
<i>Jill Collens and Dan Garner</i>	
Methodology	4
Landscape setting and natural topography	6
Chapter 2 The historical study of the Cheshire Hillforts	7
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Ormerod 1816–1819	7
Shone 1911	8
Varley 1934–1938	8
The Maiden Castle excavations 1934–5	8
Varley and Jackson 1940	9
Varley 1936–1938	12
The Castle Ditch, Eddisbury excavations 1936–8 (published 1950)	12
Varley 1964	16
Webster and Powell 1949–51	16
Bu’Lock 1955	17
Forde-Johnston 1960–64	17
Coombs 1973	18
Longley 1979	18
Beeston Castle excavations 1968–73 and 1975–85	19
Taylor 1980–81	20
The Eddisbury topographic survey 1987	20
Quarterman 1996	20
Rawson 1996–97	20
Jecock 2006	20
Discussion	20
Chapter 3 The Lithic Collection from the area around Woodhouse Hillfort, Frodsham	22
<i>Ian Brooks</i>	
Introduction	22
Harrol Edge	24
Riley Bank Farm	24
Woodhouse Hill	25
Other Sites	25
Discussion	25
Acknowledgements	28
Chapter 4 The Lost Archive of Eddisbury: Rediscovering Finds and Records from the 1936–1938 Varley Excavations	29
<i>Richard Mason and Rachel Pope</i>	
History of the archive	29
Archive contents	30
Methodology	33
Issues	35
Discussion	35
Acknowledgements	36

Chapter 5 Earthwork surveys and investigations at Woodhouse Hill, Helsby Hill and Maiden Castle	37
<i>Mitchell Pollington</i>	
Introduction	37
Woodhouse Hill	37
Description	37
Discussion	39
Helsby Hillfort	39
Description	39
Discussion	41
Maiden Castle	42
Description	42
Discussion	43
Conclusion	45
Chapter 6 Geophysical Survey.....	46
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Background	46
Helsby Hillfort	46
Eddisbury Hillfort	47
Kelsborrow Hillfort	51
Maiden Castle	56
Beeston Castle	58
The Outer Bailey – June 2010	58
The Outer Bailey – August 2010	62
The Outer Gateway – November 2009	64
Peckforton Mere	64
Oakmere	66
Conclusions	69
Chapter 7 A lidar survey of the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge	72
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Woodhouse Hillfort.....	72
Helsby Hillfort	73
Kelsborrow Hillfort.....	78
Eddisbury Hillfort	79
Beeston Castle	82
Maiden Castle	85
Manley Common	89
Concluding remarks	92
Chapter 8 Excavations at Woodhouse Hillfort	93
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Introduction	93
Site location	93
Methodology	93
Results	95
Trench 1	95
Phase 0	95
Phase 1	96
Phase 2	96
Phase 3	96
Phase 4	96
Trench 2/3.....	97
Phase 0	97
Phase 1	97
Phase 2	98

Phase 3	98
Phase 4	98
Trench 4	98
Phase 1	98
Phase 2	102
Phase 3	102
Phase 4	102
Trenches 5A–C	104
Trench 6	104
Phase 3	104
Phase 4	104
Trench 7	106
Phase 1	106
The finds	106
The clay tobacco pipe	106
The glass	106
Copper Alloy	107
The worked flint	107
Palaeoenvironmental sample assessment	108
Aims and methods	108
Results	109
OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence) sample dating	109
Discussion	109
Management Review	111
Conclusions	112
Chapter 9 Excavations at Helsby Hillfort	113
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Introduction	113
Site location	114
Excavation methodology	114
Results	114
Trench 1	115
Phase 1	115
Phase 2	115
Phase 3	117
Phase 4	118
Phase 5	119
Phase 6	124
Trench 2	126
Phase 1	126
Phase 2	128
Phase 3	128
Phase 4	128
Phase 5	128
Phase 6	129
The finds	129
The ceramics	129
Ceramic building material	129
Pottery	129
The glass	130
The metalwork – iron	130
The worked flint	131
The golf ball	131
Palaeoenvironmental Sample Summary	131
Radiocarbon Dating Summary	132
Calibration	132
Interpretation	132

Palynological Summary	133
Methodology	134
Pollen analysis	134
Geochronology	134
Results	135
Interpretation.....	136
Discussion	136
Management Review	137
Chapter 10 Excavations at Eddisbury Hillfort	139
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Introduction	139
Site Location	139
Excavation methodology.....	139
Results	140
Trench 1	140
Pre-rampart activity (Phases 1 to 3).....	141
The inner hillfort rampart (Phases 4 and 6)	143
Post-rampart activity (Phases 12 to 14)	143
Trench 3	145
Pre-rampart activity (Phase 1)	147
The possible ‘counterscarp bank’ (Phase 2)	147
The inner ditch (Phases 4, 6 and 9).....	149
The outer ditch (Phases 5, 6 and 8).....	150
The outer rampart (Phases 5 and 8).....	151
Post-rampart activity (Phases 12 and 13).....	151
Trenches 4 and 6.....	152
Pre-rampart activity (Phases 1 to 3).....	152
The inner hillfort rampart (Phases 4, 4a and 6)	155
The eastern entrance (Phases 5 to 8).....	157
The southern guardroom (Phases 5 to 8).....	162
The northern guardroom (Phases 5 to 8).....	163
20th century activity (Phase 14)	164
Trench 7	165
Pre-rampart activity (Phases 1 and 2).....	165
The inner hillfort rampart (Phases 4 and 6)	165
Abandonment (Phase 9)	166
Clay oven (Phase 11)	166
Cultivation soil (Phase 12).....	168
Field boundary and cultivation soil (Phase 13)	168
Trench 8	168
Trench 9	168
Trench 10	168
Trench 11	169
Trench 12	169
Posthole building(s) (Phase 7).....	169
Trench 13.....	170
Trench 14	172
Natural Geology	172
Pre-rampart activity	173
The inner ditch (Phases 4 and 6).....	173
The outer rampart (Phases 5 and 8).....	173
The outer rampart and inner ditch (Phases 9)	176
Varley excavations (Phase 14)	176
Trench 15	176
The inner ditch (Phases 4 and 6).....	176
The inner ditch (Phases 9 to 11).....	177
Varley excavations (Phase 14)	177

The finds	177
General	177
The pottery	177
Prehistoric pottery	177
Roman pottery	178
Anglo-Saxon pottery	179
Post-medieval pottery	179
The glass	180
The clay tobacco pipe	182
The metalwork	182
Iron	182
Copper-alloy	182
The worked flint	183
The decorated sandstone boulder	184
Other Stone	186
Palaeoenvironmental Sample Assessment	186
Phases 1 to 3 (pre-hillfort)	186
Phases 5 to 8 (construction/use of hillfort)	186
Phase 11 (post-use/abandonment of hillfort)	188
Archaeomagnetic Dating Report	188
Introduction	188
Archaeomagnetic Sampling and Analysis	189
Dating	189
Summary	190
Report on luminescence age estimation	190
Radiocarbon Dating	191
Introduction	191
Results	191
Calibration	191
Interpretation	191
The stratigraphic model	191
The archaeological phase model	192
Discussion	194
Discussion	194
Management Review	199
Conclusions	200
Chapter 11 Rescuing a scheduled monument: Recent work at Merrick's Hill, Eddisbury Hillfort	201
<i>Richard Mason and Rachel Pope</i>	
Introduction	201
Aims/objectives	201
Varley excavations 1936–1938	202
Post-Medieval occupation of Merrick's Hill	204
Prehistoric activity on Merrick's Hill	206
Iron Age Earthworks	206
Palisaded Enclosure	207
Merrick's Hill since Varley	208
World War II activity	208
Possible investigations by James Forde-Johnston	209
Modern archaeological investigation	210
John Edwards' geological investigations 1995–2004	210
Management issues	212
Tree root damage	212
Stone robbing	213
Soil management	213
Metal-detecting	214
Discussion: Re-excavating Merrick's Hill	215
Acknowledgements	216

Chapter 12 Excavations at Kelsborrow Hillfort	217
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Introduction.....	217
Site location	217
Methodology	218
Results	218
Trench 1	218
Phase 1	221
Phase 2	221
Phase 3	221
Phase 4	222
Phase 5	224
Trench 2	224
Phase 4	224
Phase 5	225
Trench 3	225
Phase 1	226
Phase 3	226
Phase 4	226
Phase 5	227
The finds	227
The metalwork – iron	230
The worked flint	230
Palaeoenvironmental Sample Assessment	230
Radiocarbon Dating Summary	231
Management Review	233
Conclusions	233
Chapter 13 Environmental changes in lowland Cheshire: Hatchmere and Peckforton Mere.....	235
<i>Richard Chiverrell, Heather Davies and Pete Marshall</i>	
Introduction.....	235
Methods	235
Field sampling	235
Geochronology: radiocarbon dating and age-depth modelling	235
Pollen analysis	235
Results	236
Geochronology.....	236
Age-depth models.....	237
Pollen data	238
Hatchmere (HAT2011)	238
Peckforton (PEC1).....	238
Interpretation	239
Hatchmere.....	239
Peckforton.....	240
Chapter 14 Pollen and plant macrofossil analysis of peat deposits from Ince Marshes	242
<i>RSK Environment Ltd</i>	
Introduction	242
Analysis of Palynological Samples	242
Introduction	242
Methods	246

Results	246
Lower peat (LP)	246
Upper peat (UP)	247
Analysis of Plant Macrofossils	249
Methods	249
Results	249
Lower peat (LP)	249
Upper Peat (UP)	253
Discussion	258
Comparisons with other sites in the area	259
Acknowledgements	259
Chapter 15 Emerging Themes	260
<i>Dan Garner</i>	
Pre-hillfort hilltop activity	260
Hillfort architecture	262
The landscape context	265
The palaeoenvironmental investigation of the landscape	267
Early Medieval re-use of the Cheshire hillforts	268
Conclusions	269
Bibliography	270
Online Appendices available at http://bit.ly/2ghWmze	276