

Contents

Abstract.....	viii
Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	x
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Chapter 2: Iron Age Hillfort Defences.....	4
Distinguishing Hillforts and Hillfort Defences.....	4
Hillfort Investigations	5
Development of Hillforts during the Iron Age	6
General Pattern of Hillfort Development	6
Development of the Defences.....	8
Variations	9
Entrances.....	10
Variations	14
Guard Chambers	14
Bridges and Towers	16
Exposure of Unshielded Side.....	16
Entrances without Gates.....	16
Hod Hill.....	16
The Function of Hillfort Defences.....	18
Warfare at Hillforts.....	24
Chapter 3: The Sling and Sling Warfare	26
Construction and Operation of Slings	26
Shot	26
Archaeological Evidence	27
Sling-stones	27
Slings	29
Skeletal Trauma	29
Uses of Slings.....	29
Range of Slings	30
Effect of Sling Hits.....	31
Accuracy	34
Tactics of Sling Warfare	34

Chapter 4: Background to the Experiment	35
Chapter 5: The Experiment	39
Approach	39
Practical Issues	39
Availability and Skills of Participants	39
Sling-stones	40
Weather	40
Phased Approach	40
Experiment Method	41
Site	41
Survey	41
Experimental Conditions and Variables	43
Excluded Conditions	45
Measurements	46
Repeated Measures Design	47
Participants	47
Experience of Slingers	48
Casting Style	48
Equipment	48
Slings	48
Sling-stones	49
Target	51
Signals and Notices	52
Procedure	52
Safety and Ethics	53
Results	53
Qualitative Results and Observations	54
Approximate Accuracy and Range	54
Downhill and Uphill Slinging	54
Slinging from Sloping Stances	54
Slinging Styles	55
Effectiveness of Hits	56
Accuracy and Timing Results	56
Key to Abbreviations and Graphs of Results	56
Summary Statistics	57
Attack Versus Defence	59
Univallate Versus Bivallate	59
Distance to Target	60
Correlations	60
Analysis of Variance	62
Effective Range	64
Time Required to Assault the Defences	64

Tactical Analysis.....	65
Scenario 1: Direct Assault by Small Group of Attackers	65
Probability of Being Hit during an Assault.....	68
Other Factors	70
Scenario 2: Barrage from the Edge of the Defences.....	70
Defensive Reinforcements	72
Slinging Effectiveness	73
Scenario 3: Two-Stage Assault and Defence of Bivallate Defences	74
Assaults on Entrances	75
Surprise or Diversionary Tactics	76
Chapter 6: Discussion	77
Functions of Hillforts and Hillfort Defences	77
Defensive Features and Characteristics.....	77
Evidence of Other Functions	79
Authors' Perspectives and Consensus.....	81
The Experiment and Analysis	81
Interpreting the Data	81
Representativeness of the Iron Age	83
Further Tactical Considerations.....	84
The Nature of Iron Age Warfare	86
Chapter 7: Conclusions	88
Appendix A: Procedure Exhibits and Experiment Equipment.....	89
Participant Instructions – Introduction	90
Safety and Environment Briefing to Participants.....	91
Participant Slinging Instructions.....	92
Data Record Sheet.....	93
Advanced Notice – At Site Entrances	94
Warning Notice	95
Participant Details Record (1).....	96
Participant Details Record (2).....	97
Emergency Instructions.....	98
Safety Analysis and Plan.....	99
Introduction	99
Overview of the experiment	99
Risk Analysis	99
Safety Procedures	100
Review	101
Exhibits.....	101
Ethics Analysis and Plan	102
Introduction	102
Overview of the experiment	102

Ethical Factors Influencing the Experimental Procedures	103
Health and Safety risks to participants and others	103
Embarrassments to participants	104
Deception of participants.....	104
Motivation of participants	104
Handling participants' details.....	104
Feedback and acknowledgements to participants.....	104
Exclusion of data	105
Damage to environment	105
Independent Review	105
Documentation	105
Equipment.....	105
Appendix B: Experiment Results and Data Analyses.....	108
Participant Data.....	108
Raw Slingshot Data	108
Analyses of Variance	111
Descriptive Statistics	113
Same on The Ground	114
Relative to Defenders.....	115
Details of Results	116
Time of Assault.....	116
Accuracy and Slingshot Time	116
Effective Range.....	116
Tactical Analyses.....	116
Bibliography	122