

Lenham Archaeological Society
**Late Iron Age Settlement at
ROYTON – MOUNTCASTLE**
Lenham Heath , Kent .



**Archaeological survey and excavations by
Lenham Archaeological Society 2003-2011**
at TQ 9062.5035

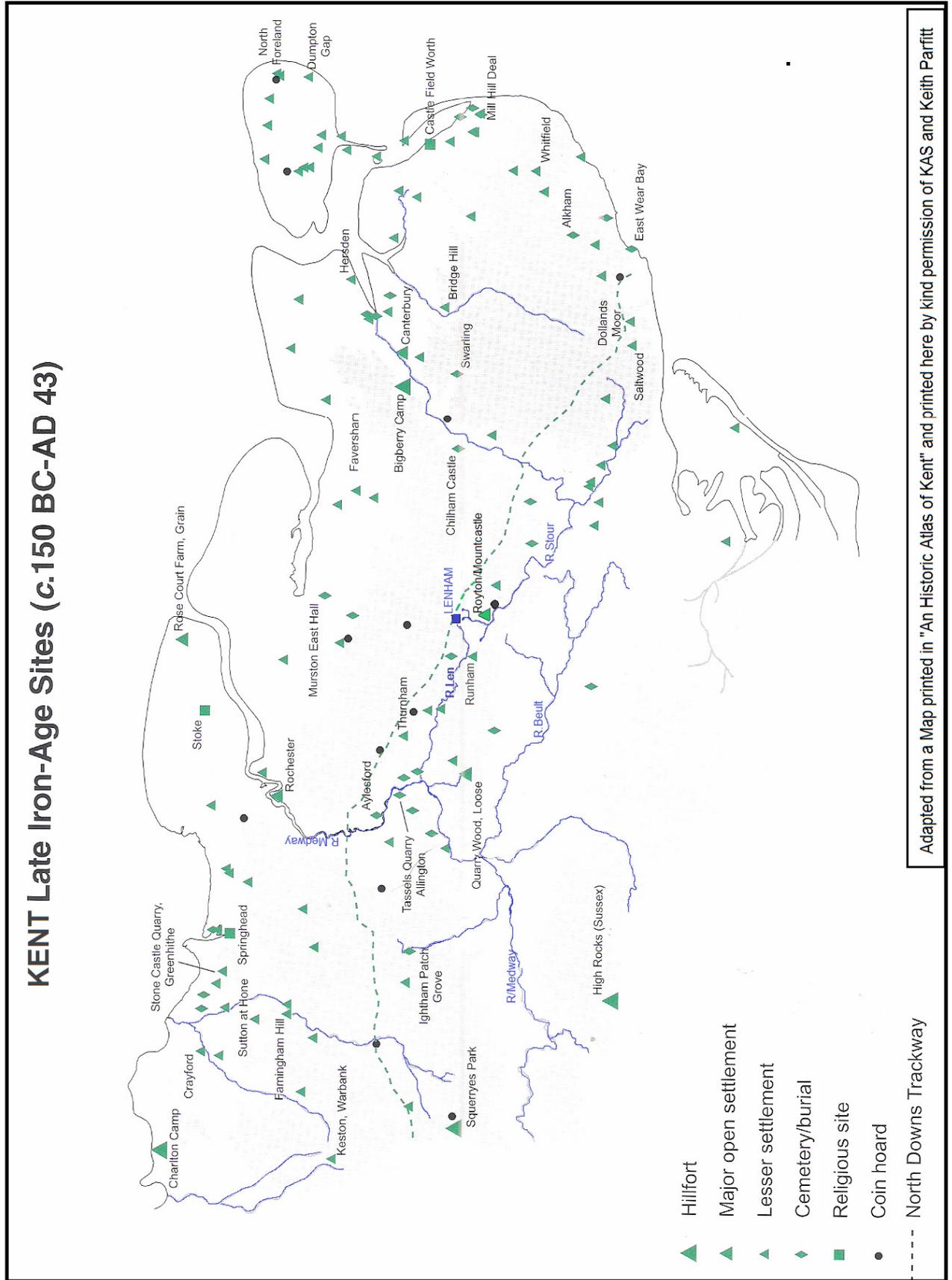
Report written and revised in 2018 by Lesley Feakes



Number of huts depicted here is not necessarily correct .

View looking east .

See also local detailed map page 40



Adapted from a Map printed in "An Historic Atlas of Kent" and printed here by kind permission of KAS and Keith Parfitt

‘Royton – Mountcastle’ , Late Iron Age site, Lenham Heath .

Summary : This site has been surveyed and studied by Lenham Archaeological Society in the years since 2003 . They published some of their findings in three journals of 2006, 2008 and 2011 called “Discovering Ancient Lenham” ISSN 1757-2975 and all their finds are logged with KCC Archaeology Dept on the HER site . But as few people know of this site and it is now under threat of destruction by sand extraction everything has been put together in this paper to make persons more aware .

1. Introduction and general background

- 1.1** This survey is concerned with an area on the Greensand Ridge at Lenham Heath near one of the ancient mills on the River Stour called Chapel Mill , by Royton Manor. The site was accessed originally through a deep Hollow way immediately to the east of the manor house (hence the name given here) and extends NE across to Mountcastle Farm. It is a rural position 2 Km SE of Lenham Church and situated in a loop of the upper reaches of the Great Stour River .
- 1.2** The main study area is bordered by Lenham Forstal road / Bull Hill to the east. Lenham Heath road to the south and Chapel –East Lenham farm road to the west . The northern boundary (beyond Mountcastle Farm) is a boggy, intermittent stream that is an old tributary of the Stour. That stream lies on the border of the gault and head clay to the north .
- 1.3** The area is within the parish of Lenham but being east of the Stour falls within Calehill Hundred and not Eyhorne.
- 1.4** The light sandy soil (of the Folkestone beds) is ideal for farming (arable and pasture) and has been so for centuries . This area was part of the land used for supplying Grant’s Morello Cherry brandy and the field still bears the name ‘Cherry Gardens’, although an older name for the area of the IA enclosure is Mouldstone Gate field .

2. Aims of the study .

- 2.1** To determine the age, extent and importance of the ditched enclosure that was first noticed on the 1960 aerial at KCC. All LAS findings have been added to HER and till now there was no threat from sand extraction.
- 2.2** Now the aim is to alert everyone, including Brett Aggregates, that the site near Royton is possibly one of **the** most important in Kent and is not just an “Iron Age farmstead” as the finds at Charing Heath quarry were termed . High status finds and results of LAS excavations combine to give impression of an amazingly intact site .It is admirable that Bretts plan to fund archaeological excavation but from findings it suggests entire careful excavation is needed. Finds occur in context/situ sometimes at only 35cm depth . The words ‘ton’ ‘dun’ or ‘den’ in Kentish dialect are likely variations of the same word, derived from Germanic language , not necessarily Saxon but the Germanic tongue of Belgic Celts. Proof of their presence is by pots found. So Royton, ‘ Roi-ton’, could translate as royal –dun, the fortified mound (= dun) of regal status ?. Earliest written name is 1223 AD St Augustines Black Book and “**de** Royton” personal names are only gained later. There are other places to extract sand, thereby saving this site that *could* be of National importance. This does not mean the farmer loses out financially –a visitor centre can be quite profitable (see last page of this report .)

3.Methodology : sources and extent of research

- 3.1** Research for this study has involved all available history sources ,KAS , maps , aerials and local peoples knowledge . Excavations, resistivity surveys and field walks been organised by LAS in many years since 2003, whenever the field was available after harvest . Sometimes the time slot between crops was quite short and therefore limited . The farmer/owners have always co-operative and interested in finds.
- 3.2** The records consulted include : HER record , OS and estate maps , 1841 tithe map, JK .Wallenberg “Place Names of Kent “ , KAS Archaeologia Cantiana, Google Earth aerials and unpublished/published records of recent digs on CTRL Union Rail , and ones

listed also on Archaeological Data Services ADS , York U . Also a monograph By Brian Philp on Runham Lane IA and Roman site , Lenham .

4. Topographical Background

- 4.1.** As already noted the site lies on the Folkestone sands of the Greensand Ridge. Flowing through this area with sources at Lenham , East Lenham and Chilston Park, is the Great river Stour. Just 1.5 Km south the scarp of Greensand drops down to the Weald, essentially Royton is on what is known as the Vale of Holmesdale.
- 4.2** The Stour is estimated to have been of much higher volume 2000 years ago and indications show in its wide river banks especially near Bowley. Modern standards now declare the 'Stour rises at Burnt Mill just over the Charing parish border', which is somewhat absurd .It was once an 'instant' river – producing a 10m wide flow right from its source at Lenham, perhaps giving its name Stour = strong . Water surrounding the site is far less now than it once was. To the north is the gault clay boundary and a large marshy area that was likely lake 2000 years ago.
- 4.3** Staging of the Stour is very old and weirs could have been in place in IA times providing a navigable river for flat bottomed barges transporting grain and iron in export to Caesar (& importing wine amphora .) Most mill sites east of Ashford have recorded IA gold stater finds . The River Len flowing west from Chilston was also staged on its way to the Medway . (Beavers (long extinct) are likely to have started the river staging with their dams . The Downs to the north, had two east –west track ways . One along the ridge shows evidence it was also a Romans route to Rochester and the so called 'Pilgrims Way' is well known , on the seam of Melborne rock (harder chalk) it never wears out .
- 4.4** Mountcastle Lane continues west in a straight line and has a Hollow way west of the farm that points to a possible Roman route through Kiln Wood Lenham and through to Harrietsham . Definitely suggesting Roman links not yet investigated by anyone!

5. Historical Facts and previous Archaeological finds

- 5.1** The density of sites and importance of prehistory in the Holmesdale Vale has only been fully appreciated in the past twenty or so years with the M20 , CTRL and large commercial developments ." Valley of Vision" project found a lot . Even so, this more rural area has had little investigation . Tutt Hill (7 Km east) near Ashford on the CTRL had no end of Neolithic → Roman , and sand pit finds in Charing Heath , Sandway (CTRL) and Runham Farm Roman iron workings have contributed to knowledge . Settlement extends back to the Neolithic and beyond. LAS has found a Mesolithic layer beneath the BA and IA layers of the dun .
- 5.2** Royton Chapel is an enigma . On the 18th C Drury map two chapels are marked . One is written in records as being 'annexed to the Manor' and another has a dedication date of 1296 which does not correspond to another later date also given. Drury's map marks the second chapel as standing on the knoll east of the house which is where locals remember stone walls . (see our later excavations)
- 5.3** Metal detector finds are remarkable . The farmer/owner has allowed detection on his land for years . Sadly not all the finds were declared . Now with PAS the situation is much better. Bronze Age hoard of carp's tongue type swords was retrieved (by one of LAS members) less than 2 Km distant from Royton , (largest in Kent, 3rd largest in the whole country.)
- 5.4** Most important metal detector finds (in 20thC) from Cherry Gardens all seem to have been given a similar find position which is near the Hollow way entrance area and all of these items suggest the site is of high status with Bronze casting being done there in IA and later in Roman times :

Rare Iron Age copper alloy brooch

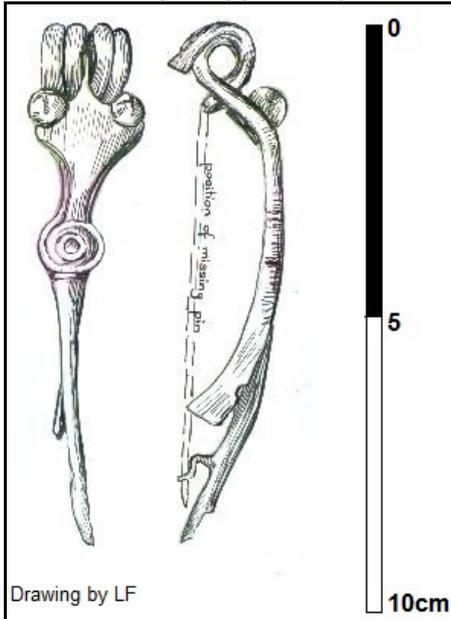


Fig 1

This was found by Mr D. Perrott in 1987 and published in Arch. Cant. in 1988 . It was not declared to Andrew Barr the land owner, but was acquired by Maidstone Museum and is on display there . According to the account by Dr Stead of the British Museum:-

“The Lenham brooch seems to have been influenced by several contemporary types and was probably made in the second half of the first century BC. It is unique , so is more likely to have been made in Lenham area than elsewhere”.

Therefore it was most likely made at Royton where it was found.



Fig 3. Roman Figurine of the God Mars. Also found the ‘chapel’ area , thought to have been made on site .



IA Bronze lynch pin found at TQ 906.502

Two staters were found last century also :-

- a) Gold Gallo –Belgic E stater at TQ 905503 by D. Perrott . Diam. 13mm weight 6.181gm. this was found in 1987 and published in Arch.Cant . in 1988



Fig 4. Gallo –Belgic E uninscribed . Cantii ¼ stater



Dubnovellaunus potin

- b). Gold ¼ stater of the Cantii at TQ 9050.5026 . dated as 40-35 BC 11.5-12.5 mm Diam. Finder Derek Butcher , is now in possession of the land owner. Also found in this same area were two Dubnovellaunus bronze units of Lion/horse type and 3 Roman coins listed (see **page 5**)

5.5 Finds at Mountcastle farm were discovered in 2000 (but unpublished .) by Brian McNaughton when a water pipe was being laid near Mountcastle cottages. Iron slag , iron smelting furnace

pieces , and many sherds of Romano-British pottery much like those later found in LAS digs on the IA Royton site.

6. Surveys carried out by Lenham Archaeological Soc 2003 ---2014

Aerial photograph scanning , particularly using Google Earth , and resistivity surveying using an RM machine .

6.1 Aerial photographs

First one looked at was from 1960 but later ones showed features even more clearly and some oblique pictures were shot by Brendan Frazer –Tomlins a LAS member who had a pilots licence .

The best one of all has proven to be the 2013 Google Earth when the crop was barley that invariably shows crop marks well. Here is a drawing to scale of those crop marks many were 'truthed' by trenching across them and by resistivity survey :-

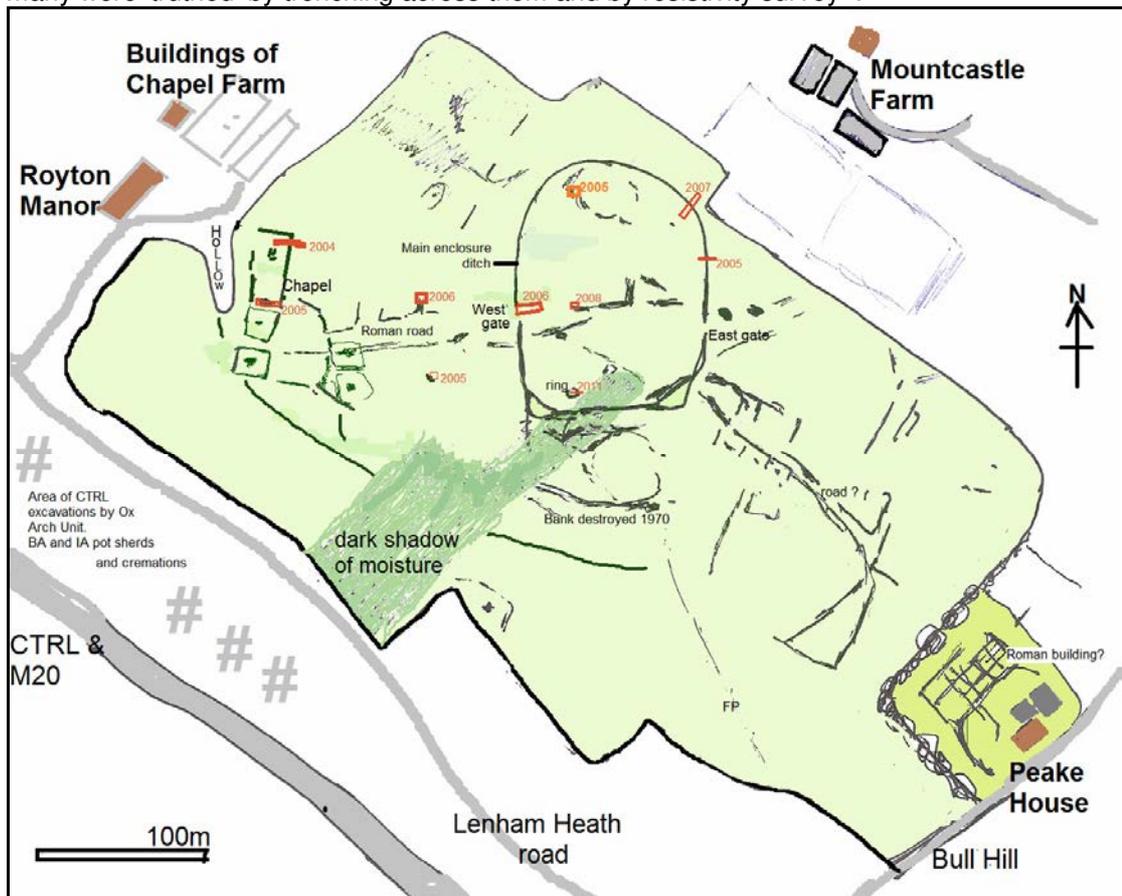


Fig 5 Aerial shadows , valid crop marked features . See Google Earth 2013

6.2. Resistivity plots were done in the first winter (2003) in 20x 20m sections , when the field was left fallow and there was a longer time slot . All the dark areas of crop mark corresponded to low resistance . Most of the enclosure ditch was done and a large section of the western 'chapel' area of the field (see later) . Fortunately the sand was quite moist and gave good readings . On later occasions when it was very dry, false readings sometimes occurred when the electrical probe could not penetrate the dry sand **The dark shadow** probably caused by the destruction of an outer bank (1970) and the underground presence of moisture/spring that loosens the sand considerably (caused by expansion of Fullers earth mixed with the sand) so the crops grow stronger there and the earth- resist also is less. When dry any Fullers earth does the opposite and binds the sand into the consistency of concrete. (see Ring ditch dig 2011.)

Resistivity printout all plots done in 2003

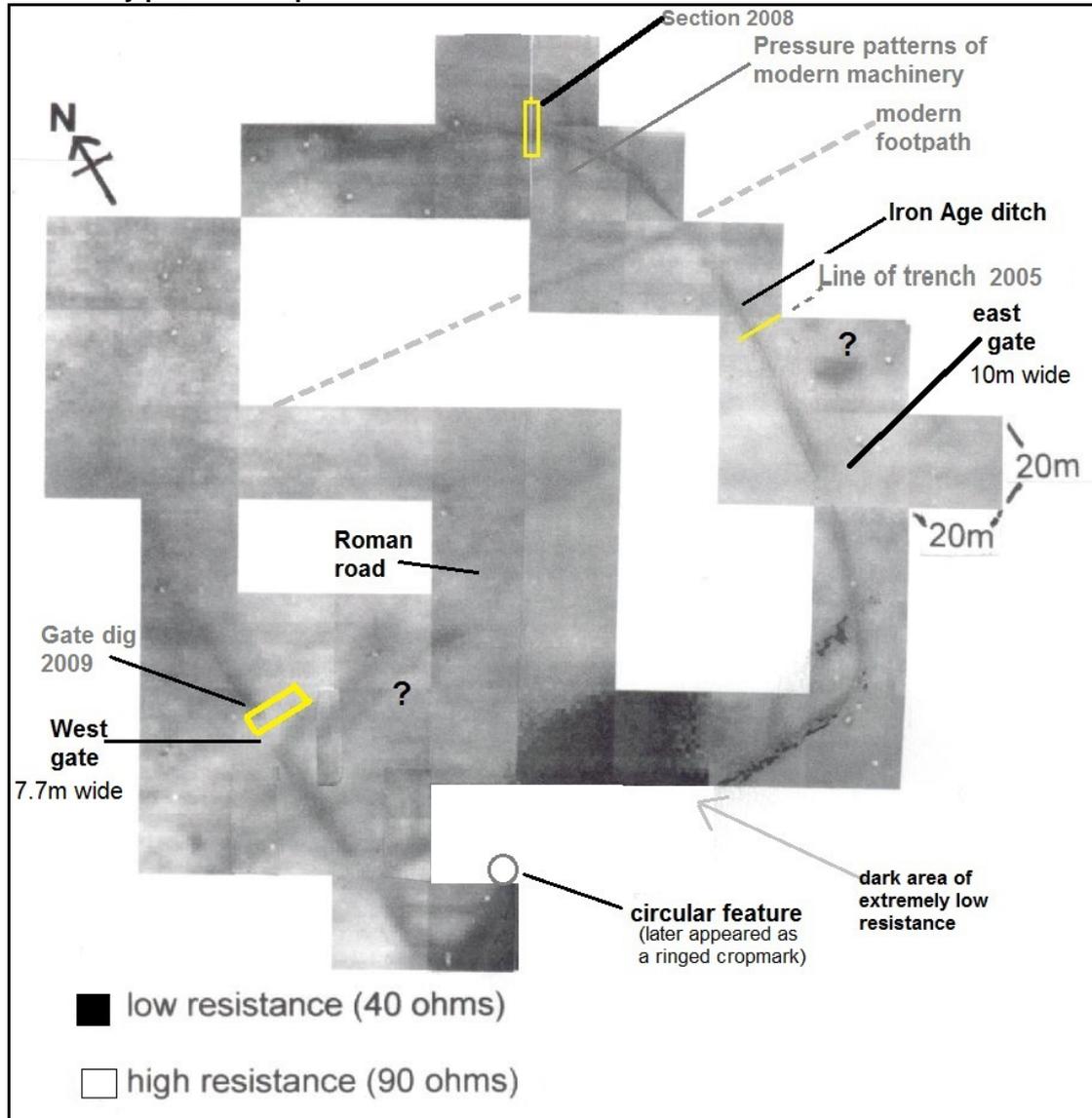


Fig 6

Unfortunately the 20x 20m square which contained the ring ditch somehow got missed (we ran out of time) This ring ditch only showed in an extremely dry spring in 2011. The strange dots in the northern section appear to be valid ...perhaps they are firing pits, they have a dark ring around them . It would be interesting to do a magnetometry survey now KCC have a machine . The dark spot just north of the east gate often shows on aerials too.

7. Series of digs carried out by LAS 2004 -2011

This paper is not just a walk-over survey, this second part deals in detail with all the LAS digs and the conclusions arrived at. Digs are described in chronological sequence .

7.1 RECTANGLE DITCH DIG . Dec . 2004

The problem is with Royton Chapel where was it ?

According to one 18thC map there are two chapels and LAS findings tend to confirm that . Royton chapel that was 'annexed to the Manor' building and Shelve Chapel that stood alone on the knoll to the SE accessed by the Hollow Way. There is an additional problem in that the recorded H.E.R. position at TQ 9053. 5031 seems not correct either. Local people remember walls visible on the knoll before 1970 rather than at the listed spot (100m north of there.) The strong shadow of the rectangular ditch , visible on aerials and the resistivity , is the closest crop mark feature to the listed Chapel

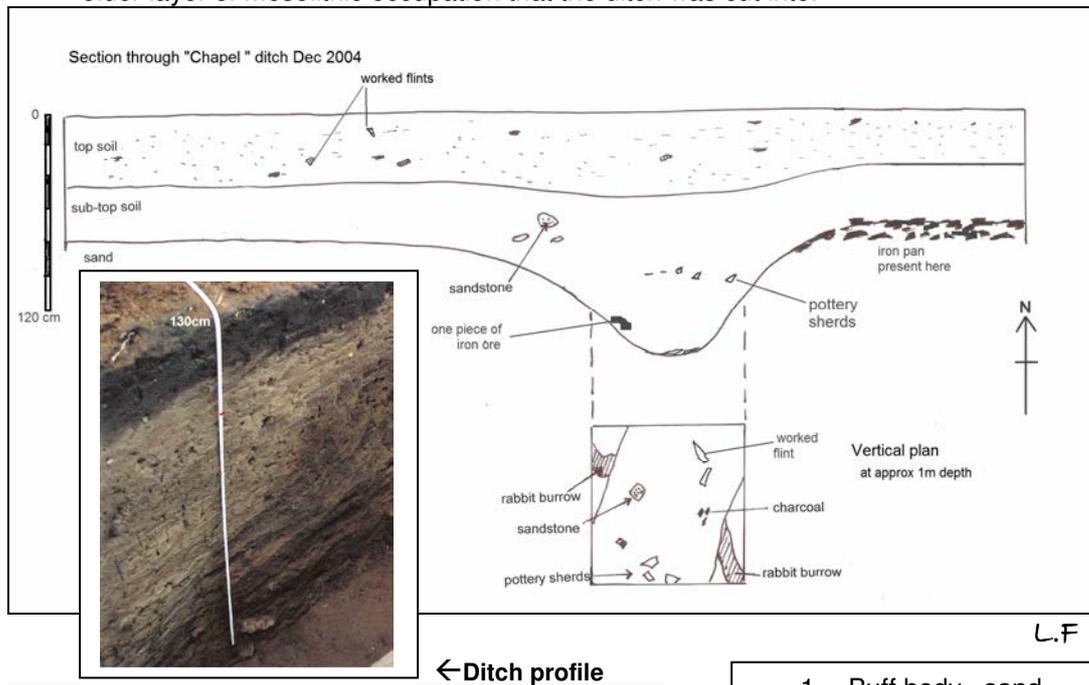
position . So this led us to believe this could be the chapel , so a trench was cut .

Rectangular ditch results :-

Digging down through the 'ditch' it was noticeable that the iron pan was absent, as if removed, but on the east of the rectangular it remained in place .i.e. it had presumably been taken out when the ditched rectangle was made.

Fill of the ditch contained a few broken traces of tile, pottery , iron slag , charcoal , and sandstone. 60 cm beneath the surface was a rim with scored design along it and a piece of grey jug handle (Potters Lane type from Ashford) .10cm below that were pieces of sandy ware, Romano British in date with pushed out design . 120cm down was what looked at first like a typical piece of iron pan but on lifting it one could see it had a remarkable pattern resembling a female breast as if reverently placed near the base of the ditch. Clue that the ditch was surrounding a sacred site ?

Right at the base of the ditch were two Mesolithic type worked flints , they may have fallen into the ditch whilst it was originally being dug or else they could represent an older layer of Mesolithic occupation that the ditch was cut into.



←Ditch profile

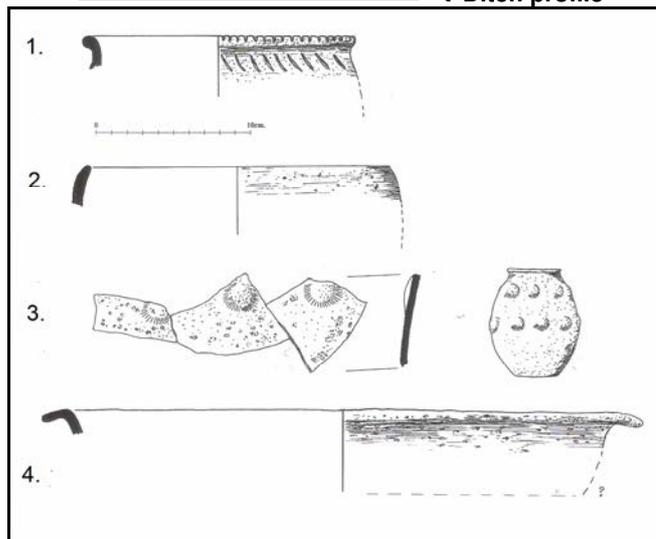


Fig 7

1. Buff body , sand tempered , stabbed rim pattern slashed shoulder design.
2. Grog tempered. simple rim , Iron Age type .
3. Three pieces body sherd, sandy ware reddish colour with pushed out design Romano-British
4. Grog tempered rim of a possible dish shaped pot .IA

Page 8

5. Grey ,smooth fabric handle piece with slashed design . Looks to be from Potters Lane Ashford . Early medieval ? but why was it so deep down in the ditch ?

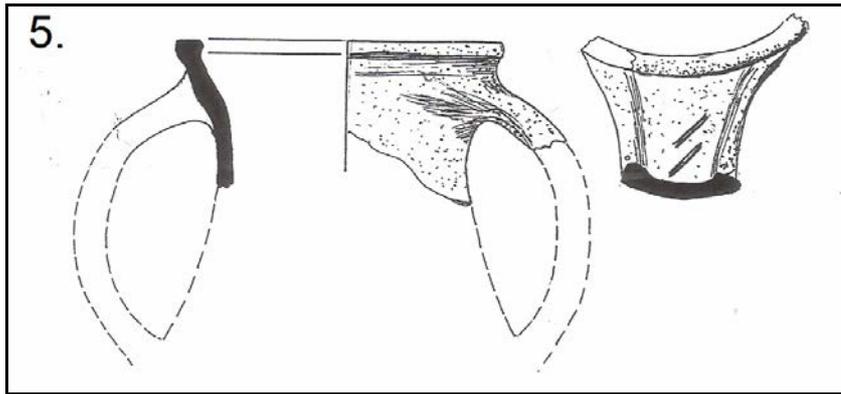


Fig 8

It is possible the ditch remained open in history for quite sometime . Just 100m north (down the slope) a Saxon Sceat was found by Derek Butcher with his metal detector. But it would seem to be an Iron Age ditch from the low position of the Belgic grog tempered ware. The presence of worked flints of Mesolithic Age, 6000 years + , points to the fact people were living on this dun for that length of time (see later test pit) But whatever, this ditch was likely open and possibly used as a route way for a considerable length of time from IA onwards , Another aerial photograph seems to show that the ditch extended further north so perhaps it leads to an older Saxon Chapel? Which would explain the early medieval jug ? Much more excavation is needed across this whole area to determine exactly what is there.(see the next section on the Chapel Dig)



Fig 9

.Iron stone (iron pan) item found near the bottom of the ditch as if placed deliberately

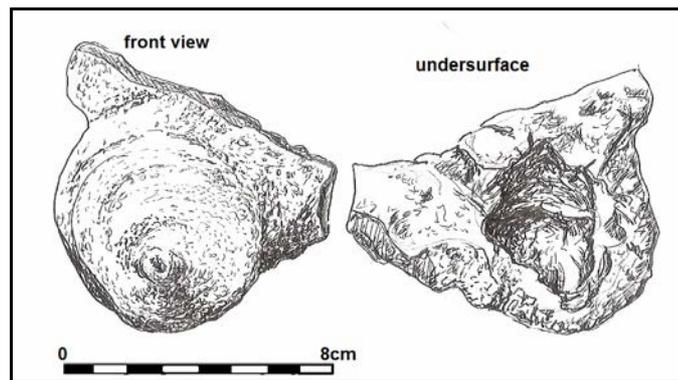


Fig 10

The flints found at base of the ditch :-

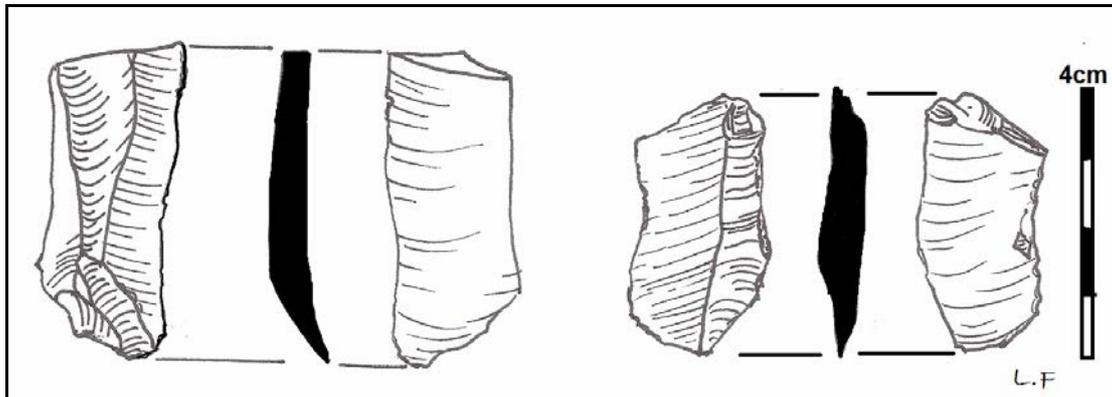


Fig 11

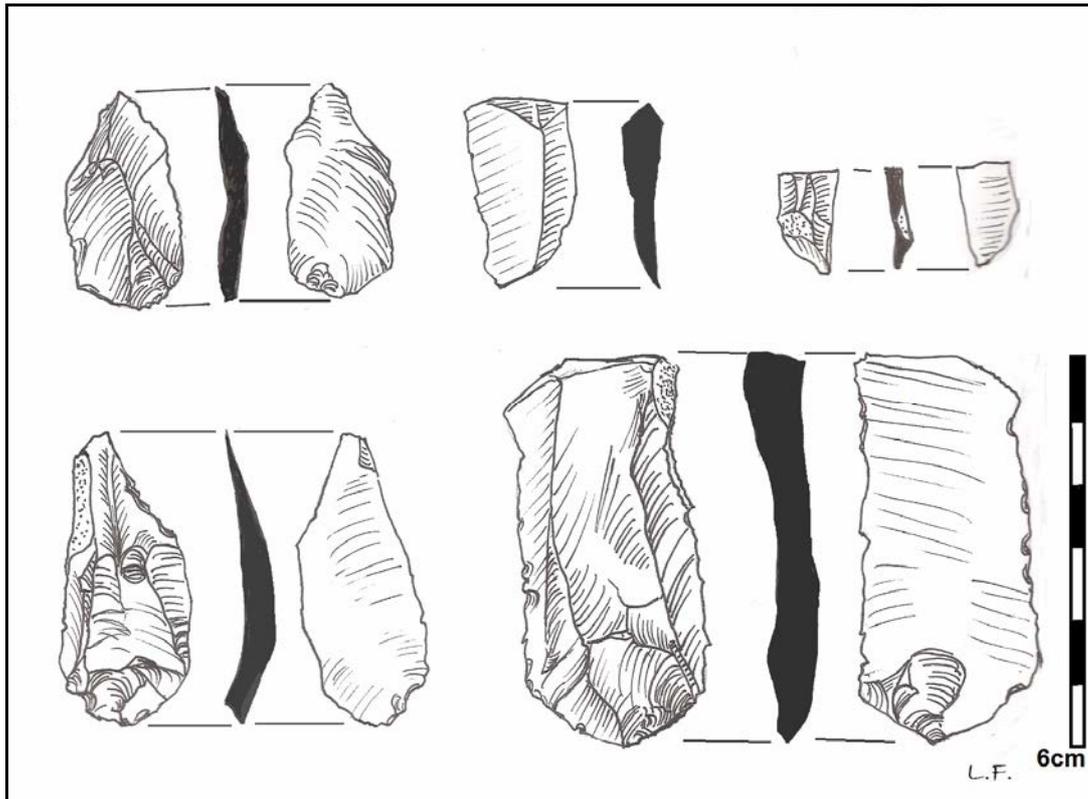


Fig 12 . Worked Mesolithic flints from the ditch fill

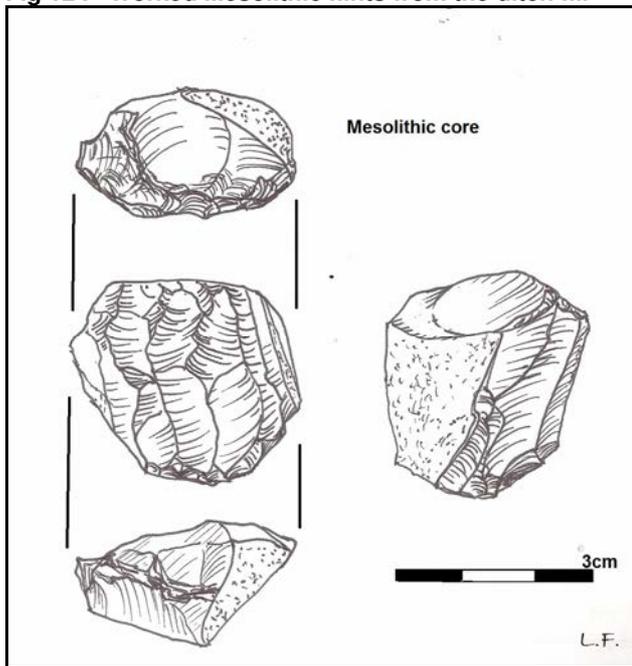


Fig 13 Mesolithic core

Note :These flint drawings were made on site as part of LAS notes .

Note also :- on the aerial there appears to be a shadow in the centre of the ditched rectangle that still needs investigation. A dubious ground radar survey had been done over the area of the rectangular crop mark but no definitive structure was found by that particular operator , nothing that was easily interpreted .

It was decided to follow locals insistence and investigate the knoll position for the Chapel especially as that was the location given for many of the metal detector finds last century .

The problem is with Royton Chapel where was it ?

According to one 18thC map there are two chapels and LAS findings tend to confirm that as fact. Royton chapel that was 'annexed to the Manor' building and Shelve Chapel that stood alone on the knoll to the SE accessed by the Hollow Way. There is an additional problem in that the recorded H.E.R. position at TQ 9053. 5031 seems not correct either. Local people remember walls visible on the knoll before 1970 rather than at the listed spot (60m NE of there.)

So the strong shadow of the rectangular ditch , visible on aerials and the resistivity , led us to believe this could be surrounds of the chapelbut was this ditch medieval or Iron Age ?

Resistivity survey prior to the dig :-

An extensive area 80m X 100m was covered by resistivity surveying during 2003 when the field was left fallow.

Most of the main Iron Age enclosure was surveyed then too. When dry, the sand gave very high readings so there was a great variance on some days, hence the combined picture of 20x 20 m squares was difficult to amalgamate but valid features can be seen .

So the first trench cut in Dec. 2004 was across the 'ditch' crop mark showing both on the aerials and the resistivity .

An aerial that appeared on 'Printable Maps' was quite revealing from the point of view of sorting out the Chapel and the ditches surrounding it . Using this satellite image one can see that the rectangle ditch continues south in a straight line over the Chapel ridge . Was it an old Neolithic siting line or did it lead down to the grave site near the River Stour who knows ?`

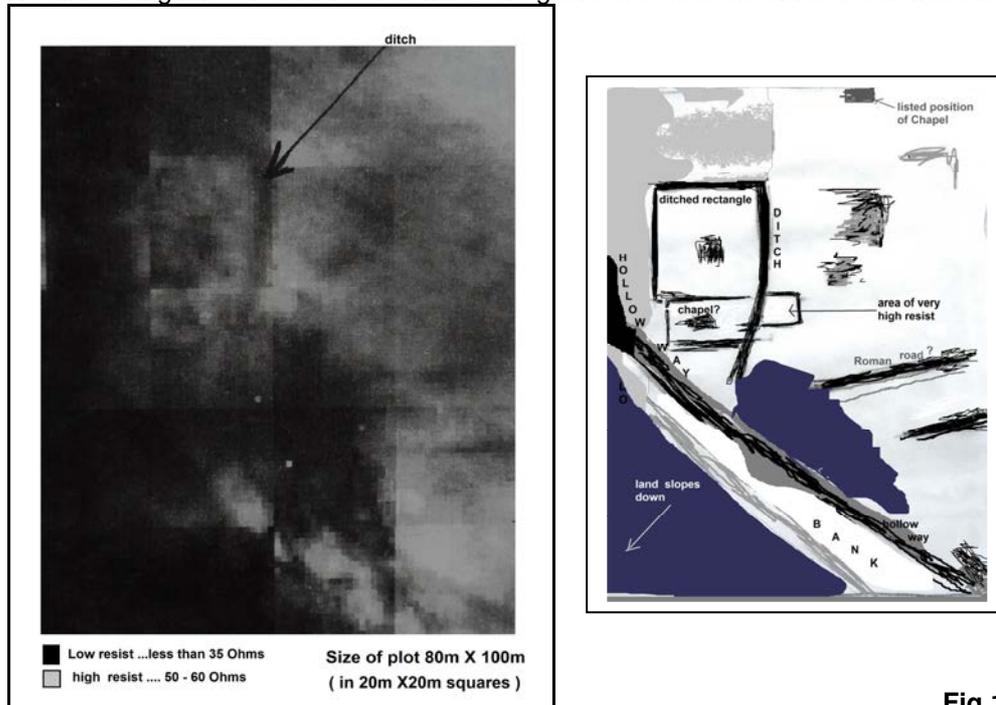


Fig 14

Resistivity plot of Chapel area Explanatory sketch

As can be seen on this print out, the resistivity had picked up an area of very high resistance on the ridge of the knoll and there appeared to be a rectangle east→ west in orientation approximately 10m in length by 8m in width .

So in an attempt to determine if the knoll was indeed the chapel site a trench was opened at **TQ 9048.5029** (reading/position obtained from the GPS Magellan as well as the map.)The excavation was a long series of 1m X1m test pit trenches set in a line west to east . A line of ragstones were found and area of much debris , roof tile , iron slag pieces , mortar/gravel/ chalk pieces and broken floor tiles .Additional items were a scrap of window glass with lead setting and a modern pig burial weighted down by a very large piece of iron slag 9cm X 11cm. so by result of the debris the most likely position of the actual Medieval Chapel seems to be in this position, although it is listed as TQ 9053.5031. There was evidence that many ragstones had been robbed out and none that we found had any mortar attaching them to others.

The discovery of the modern pig burial against a line of ragstone consumed everyone's interest and the farming time slot ended too soon, the area had been a pig farm last century.



Fig 15 13th Century tile from the Chapel



Fig 16 Skeleton of a pig buried against the chapel Stones Window glass with chevron design

The little "Shelve" Chapel as it more rightly seems to be & could have looked like this :-



Fig 17 Reconstruction of the Chapel Dedicaded 1256 or 1296 reports differ
It definitely had a buttress (as mentioned in old texts) had leaded glass windows. proof of which was found , glazed tile floor and tiled roof .

7.3. NORTH EAST part of ENCLOSURE Ditch , Trench 3 = the 'KEY' dig in 2005

The following Sept . it was decided to section the enclosure ditch and determine for sure whether it was originally cut in Iron Age times .
 The time of the dig was early September just after the crop was harvested . There was only a slot of a few weeks before the field would be sown again so time was limited .
 The position of the trench can be seen on the plan just north of the east gateway.
 A long (for LAS) 6m trench was planned and to make it easier and quicker to dig for our small crew it was made just 0.5 m wide . However this made it difficult digging in the latter stages as the enclosure ditch was greater depth than imagined !
 Further problem , although the position was calculated carefully the Google Earth did not have such good navigation as now and the exact position was about two metres out . The descent into the ditch did not start till meter 5.
 Consequently the trench dug needed to be extended to catch the ditch returnbut time and farming slot were against us, we did not reach beyond the base of the ditch.
 However , substantial finds and structure were discovered .

Finds :-

The first 35 cm of top soil (sandy plough soil) had a few pieces of iron slag and more was found in the next 10cm of occupation layer . As before noted , the whole field is littered with it . Some archaeologists claim that all slag found on digs should be collected and stored, that is not sensible for our small unit , storage would be prohibitive as the quantity overall on this field is vast .The count of slag pieces in this dig was 70.



Fig 18 .Typical sample of iron slag produced in the Iron Age and Roman times .



Fig 19. Bronze Roman key length = 5cm

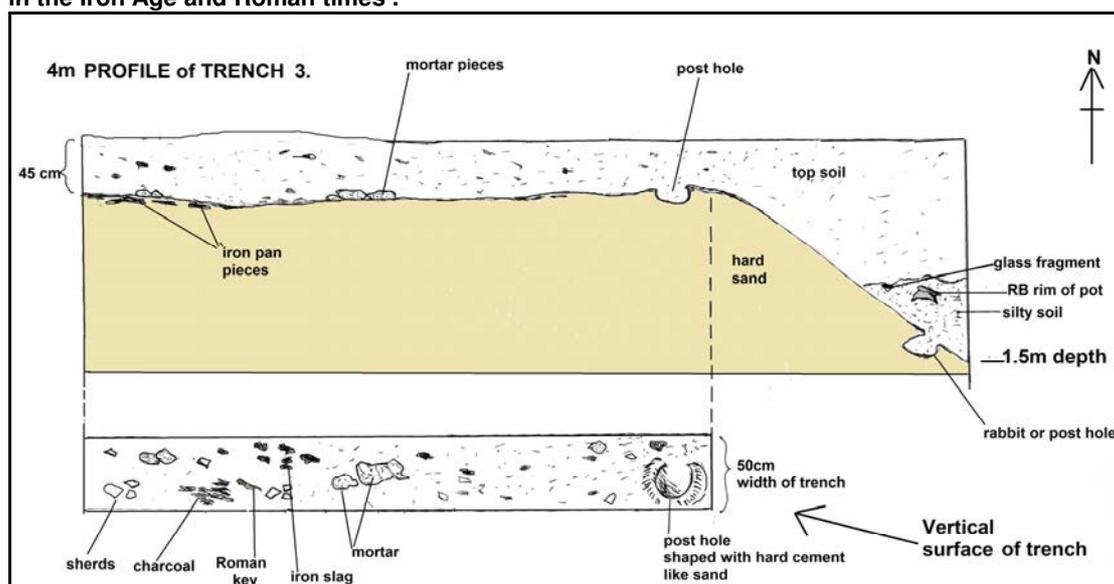


Fig. 20 . Trench profile of enclosure ditch .

The copper alloy Roman key was at 35 cm depth with 6 neatly bored holes as part of its design .

Also found was a small triangle of glass 1cm x1cm,very thin, pale green with folded over rim. At a depth of 105cm in the ditch area .

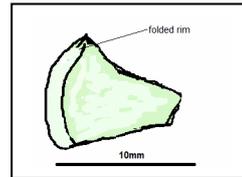


Fig 21 Glass fragment

There was also a patch of very crumbly charcoal just to the west of the post hole base , but not enough sizeable pieces to collect for dating . One small piece of plain Samian (early type) at a depth of 40 cm. The post hole was of rock hard sand probably with bentonite (Fullers earth) mixed in that solidifies the sand to this cement like quality .

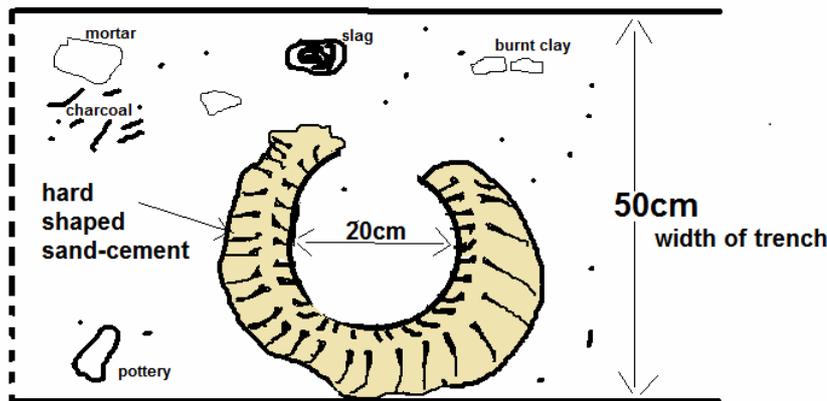


Fig 22 surface of trench showing detail of raised post hole packing

Pottery sherds :- in the 35-45cm level there were many sherds of LIA type and Romano British. Not many were the red sandy ware that is so common in Forstal Field to the east but many were of types that had been retrieved from along the footpath over the years . But one notable sherd ...quite sizeable section of rim was founds 110cm depth in the ditch , Roman grey sandy ware, high fired reduction ware,typical of late 1st -2nd Century. Close to where the grey sandy rim was found the glaciis slope of the ditch had a 25 cm. hole dug into the side of it . This cavity was an actual void and gave the impression of a rabbit stop . So perhaps it was, but an ancient rabbit , not modern as it was 1m below the surface . The alternative might be that it was for a defensive spiked post pointing outwards across the ditch (*Cheval de frise*) but to prove that a much longer section of ditch /bank needed to be exposed . (So a Roman rabbit hole seems more plausible at this moment in time !) The presence of Roman mortar suggest that a Roman building was constructed somewhere in the vicinity . Was it nearer Mountcastle farm of Peaks House ?More investigation is needed. However , the selection of pot sherds found in the water main excavation at Mount Castle cottage were very similar to these found in this Trench . (see later description at Mt Castle Farm.)

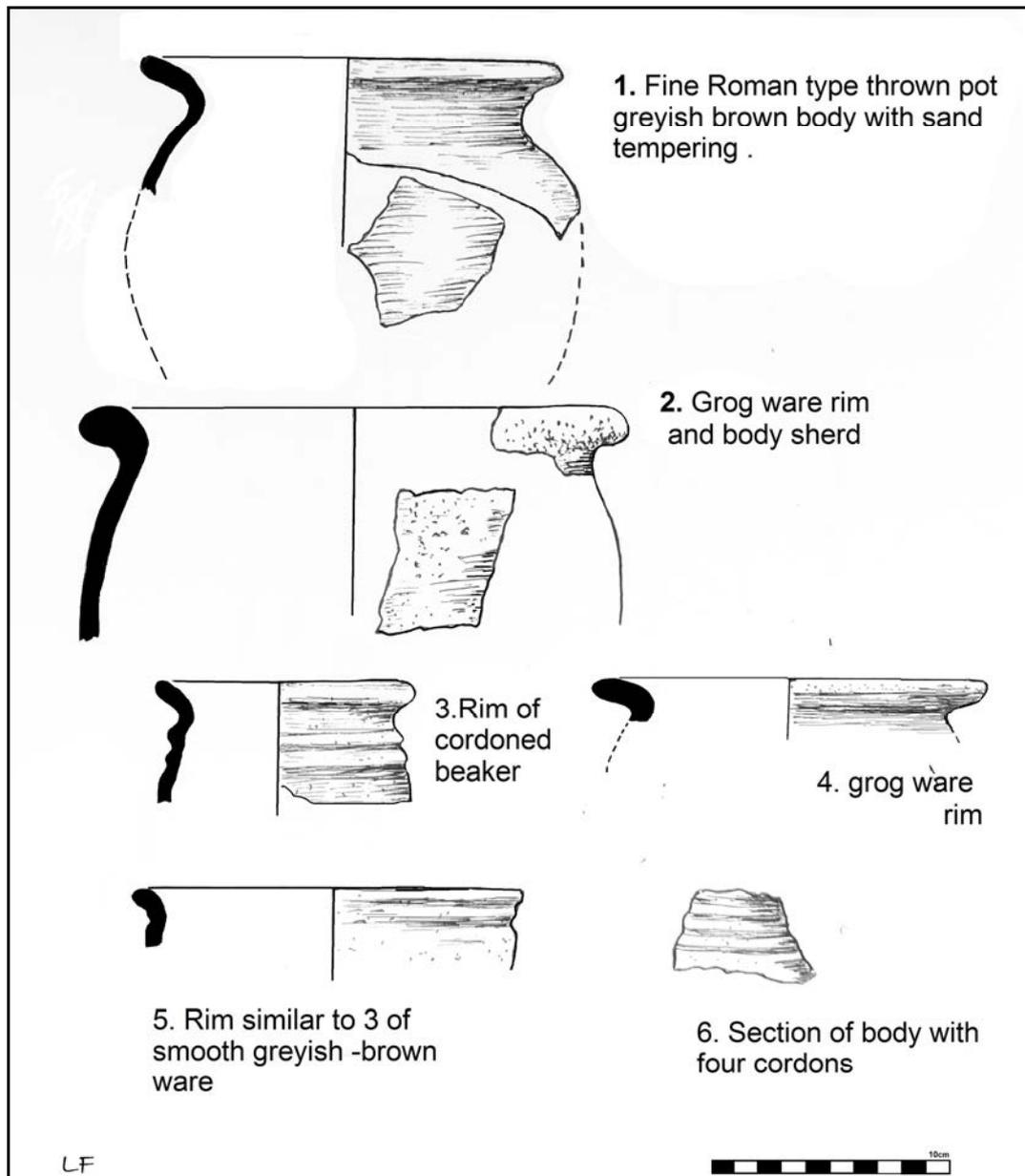


Fig 23. Sherds found in Trench 3 ..the 'Key' trench .
 No 1 is the high fired Romano-British rim found in the ditch . 1st -2nd Century .

7.4 NORTHERN ENCLOSURE DITCH 2007

A trench was opened across the enclosure ditch in the north section near the fence of MountCastle Farm .The sand there was firm and appeared to have Fullers Earth mixed in as it was not crumbly at all and there was no danger of a deep trench from collapsing . Consistency was like Kendal mint cake easily trowelled but holding its shape . Damp enough for the different layers to be discerned . The trench was cut 1metre wide by 9m long in a N→S direction . Reason for digging it here was to establish a connection (if it could be found) with the Romano-British sherds and iron smelting found at MountcastleFarm Cottages in 2000AD. Also the hope was to find more mortar/tile to link that found in the Key trench 7.3 . It was not long before the slope of the ditch was found with its hard packed sand- cement surface . As in 7.3 **sand/concrete** post holes were found establishing that there was likely a palisade on the top of the bank. The ditch floor proved to be flat and square, 1m wide at the base , typical of 'Fecamp ' type defences dug on sites in the Late iron Age in France . Most of the pottery finds occurred in the 'inside' section of the settlement , an exception to this was a

rim of fine pottery , khaki coloured clay , high fired burnished and with a rouletted design . It does not fit any RB ware from Upchurch in Kent and would appear to match rouletted Late Iron Age pots produced in from Gaul .It was lying in the hard surface of the ditch return .

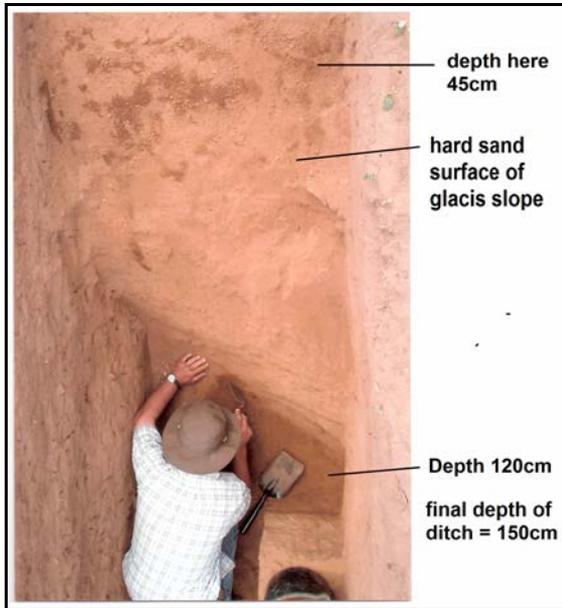


Fig 24. Brendan working in the base of the ditch. Fig 25. Rouletted, burnished rim of IA pot

In total , in the whole 9m of the trench there were 61 sherds of mostly late Iron Age pots recovered.

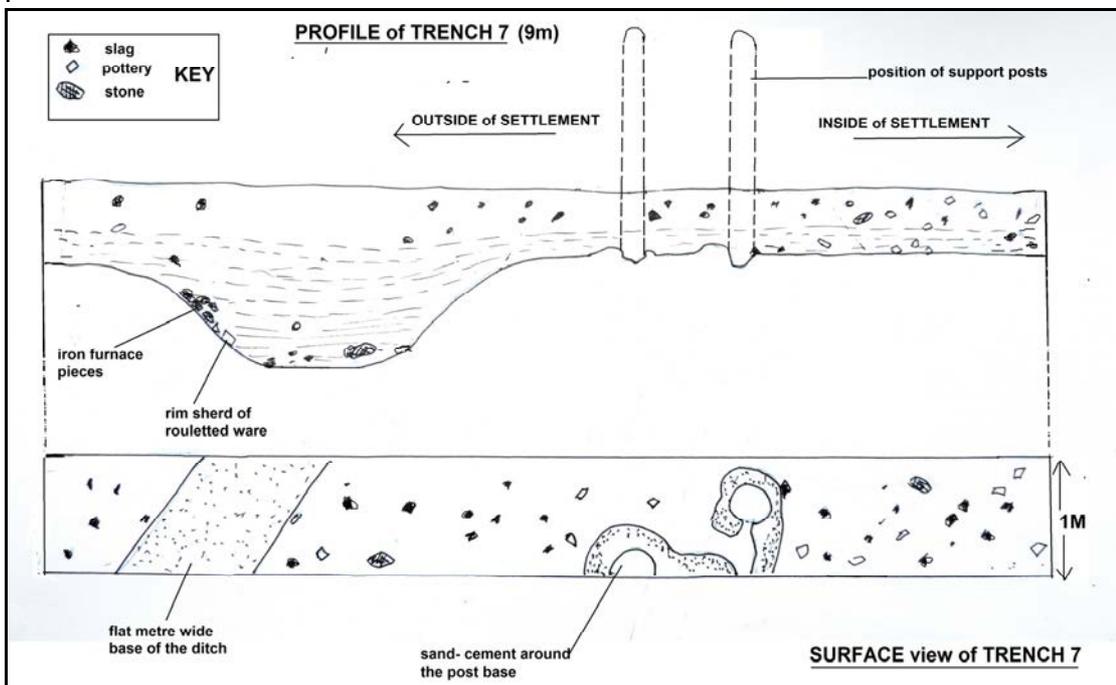
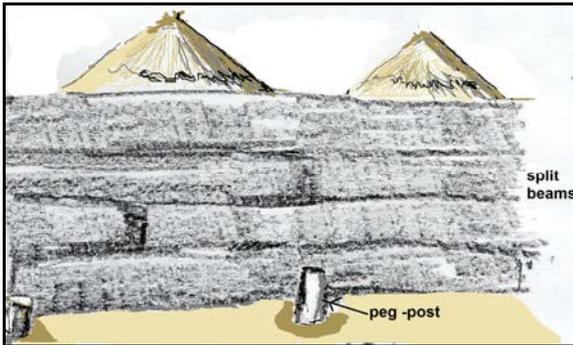
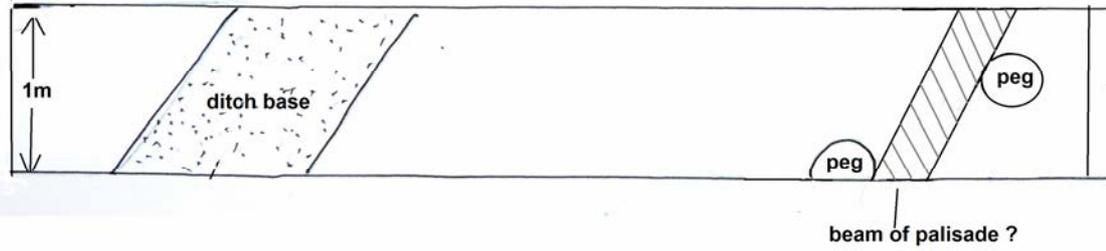


Fig 25 North trench

Post holes – These were defined by pugged sand (hard like cement) around the base of the post . The offset position suggests that the main palisade was constructed using split oak trunks set longitudinally one above the other and the 'post holes' indicate position of poles pegging the beams in place . The weight of the beams and possible tenon joints between them would keep the whole thing stable . As the soil base is sand this makes much more sense that an upright close ' boarded fence ' of posts, for the sand would not

hold multiple upright posts that well, but heavy beams set longitudinally would not move or be breached by battering rams so easilysee this diagram :-



**Of course this is only guess work .
More excavation is needed to prove the theory .
But given the fact the IA enclosure is built on sand with a deep ditch and bank, a palisade using split horizontal beams like this makes sense. It was likely cambered outwards to make scaling from the exterior more difficult.**

Fig 27 Palisade reconstruction

This does not make the ditch Roman of course but implies the ditch had filled by 30cm approximately by 222 AD



**Fig 29 . Pat in the trench :- note the sides of the trench were well consolidated (with presence Bentonite?) not soft natural sand that would be in danger of collapsing .
Natural sand was not found except where she is standing.**

One interesting find was a silver denarius of Severus Alexander 222 AD found by B. Fraser-Tomlins in the east side of the trench wall 30cm above the base of the ditch.



**Fig 28. Roman silver coin . Severus Alexander 222AD
RIC 178 = very young Severus Alexander. Obverse is Salus seated feeding a snake**

Some of the pottery in this trench resembled Late Iron Age pottery from a site destroyed by the Channel Tunnel Rail at Hollingbourne . One sherd found at that site was copied by the author and a replica pot made in 2000AD, five years before its counterpart was found.

Fig 29



Pottery sherds on the inside of the settlement included many sandy ware thinly thrown dishes . The rims of these gave strong indication they were open dishes or plates one even had an indented ridge around the top of the rim as if to catch any soup that splashed out . These plates may have given their name to *Pating Forestal* on old maps.

Fig 30

Sandy ware rims of grey body clay that has fired red in an oxidising kiln ...see the thin red coating that all appear to be plates or shallow dishes



This rather inaccurate 18th Century Drury map is remarkable in respect to the two chapels marked AND the fact it names 'Pating Forestal' Unknown on any other maps . the only derivative of the name seems to be Latin for plate . Were whole plates found near the square wood of Wheatgratten/New Shelve at some time in the past?

Fig 30a

7.5. West Gate dig 2006.

Position of the west gate had been found when the resistivity was carried out in 2003 .
But this was confirmed again to be sure of where it was exactly :-

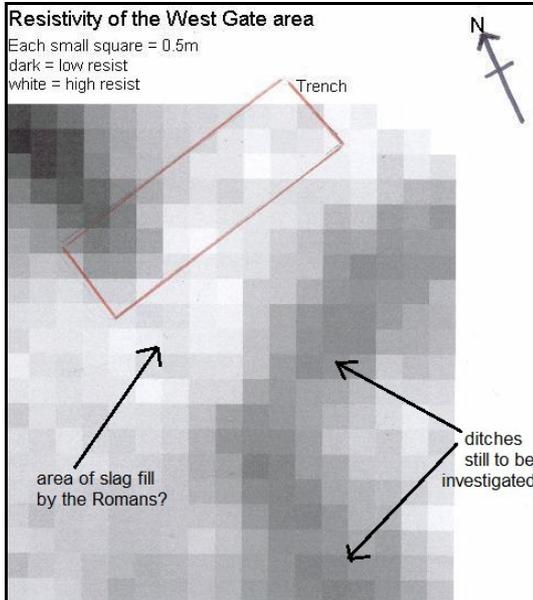


Fig 31
2m X 6m trench was cut as indicated . This covered less than half of the gateway. Its actual width was calculated at 6m . Fortunately the area filled with slag to make the Roman road was largely on the south side.



Fig 32 Gate dig start.... looking west

25 cm depth:-10 pieces of iron slag,1 worked flint ,6 pieces of IA grog tempered pot.
35 cm still top soil but drier and harder , more iron slag ..



Fig 33

45 cm Bucket full of iron slag . Increasing amount as if laid for a road surface

The amount of slag precluded any effort to asset the exact number of pieces . After six buckets it was stacked in a pile for deposition in the trench when back filling .

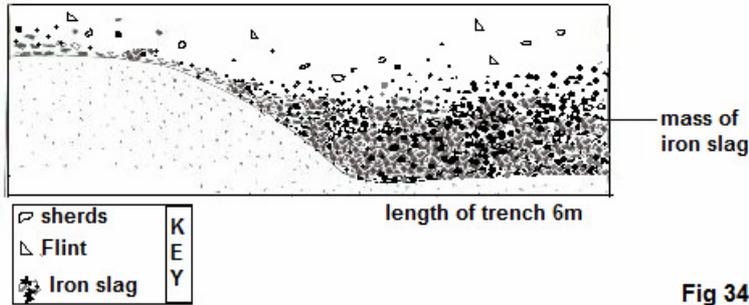


Fig 34

The above profile is looking south and explains the 'problem' with iron slag . Because the trench only sectioned half of the gate way this south flank is looking at the mass of slag deposit in the centre of the gate entrance ...presumably dumped by the Romans to fill it for a road . Had the dig been larger and encompassed the whole gate area the structure would have been clearer . Diagram of Fig perhaps explains it better.

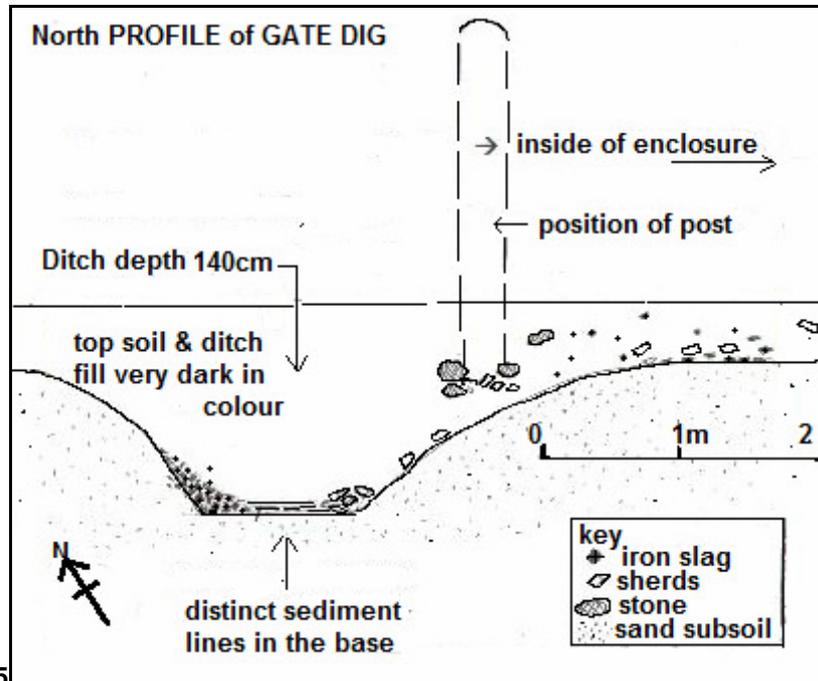


Fig 35

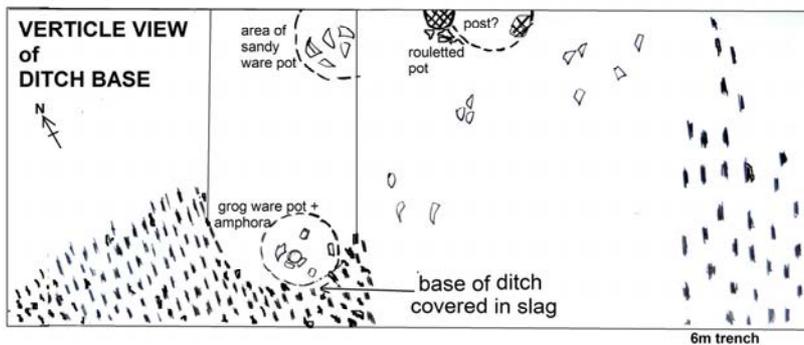


Fig 36

On the northern edge of the trench 60cm depth pieces of pot wedge between pieces of sand stone were found . This looked like a post hole but unfortunately the top pieces had been dislodge by the plough . The sherds were unique , fine ware of khaki coloured clay , high fired , burnished and with a rouletted design around the shoulder . They are not Roman Upchurch ware but were skilfully thrown as if precursors of those potters .



Fig 37

As they were apparently packing around a post, one can only assume they were Iron Age and fit descriptions of LIA rouletted ware from Gaul? Hobnails, enough for a whole sandal were scattered down the slope as were sherds of a broken pot and near the base of the ditch one piece had a hobnail accreted to it. Sadly it parted company ! Later it was discovered that all the pieces of this pot fitted together . It was large (30cm tall) finely thrown 2mm thick in places, fragile pieces of the base were retrieved that indicated it was rounded and not with a foot . This makes sense if produced on site , it will stand firmly on a sandy floor.

The fact that it had a hobnail attached and was sliced down its centre (other half completely missing) suggests it could have been broken in the furore of the invasion ?



Fig 38. Hob nails



Fig 39

Sandy ware pothob nail attached near the black mark

At the base of the gate ditch there were fragments of an almost complete grog ware dish (commonly called a dog's bowl) and two broken pieces of amphora .



Fig 40

Late Iron Age "dog -bowl" 50BC- 43AD almost completesee next diagram (more precise dating could be gained with thermoluminescence)

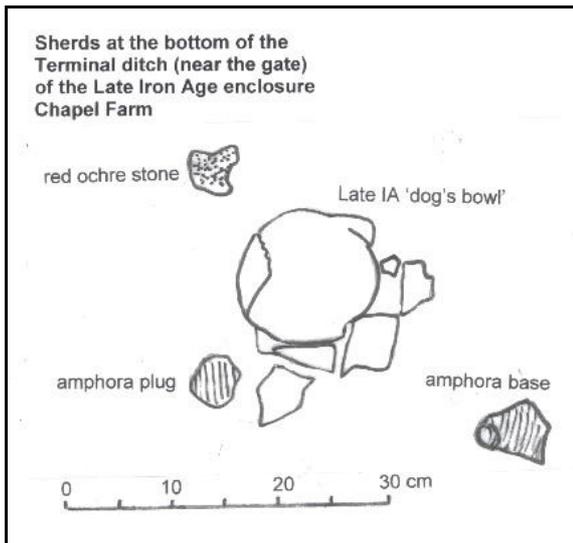


Fig 42a

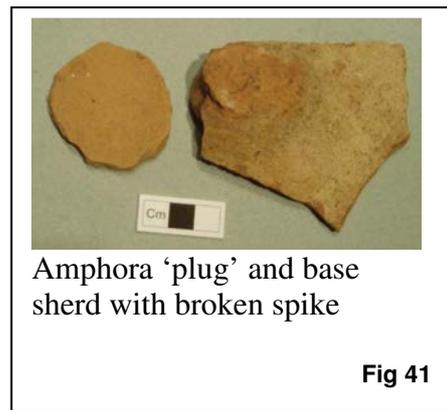


Fig 41

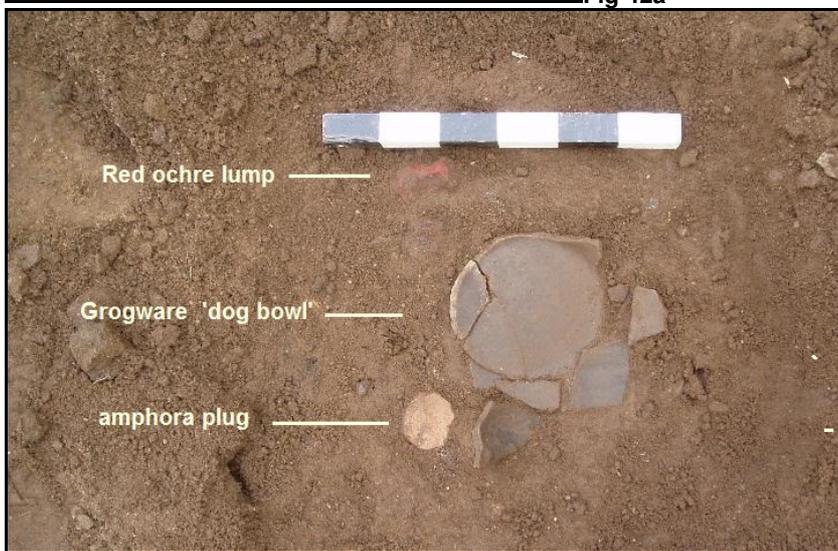


Fig 42

The amphora was *possibly* to be from a type imported from Spain in the early half of the 1st Century AD. Similar type has since been found in a 1st C ditch at Lenham but if so it is possible they were importing wine before the Invasion .

The Roman road, mostly of iron slag had been noted visually running west → east across the site showing as a darker black mass when the field was in ploughed state . Later when Ted Godfrey owned up to the considerable collection of Roman coins (see attached article already published in "Discovering Ancient Lenham" vol.3 2011) its line was then confirmed . The formation of this Roman road presumably took place early in the 1st C .after the invasion (earliest coin found = Domitian dupondius) and continued throughout the entire Roman period Honorius denarius found at Lenham Forstal.

The presence of the red ochre chunk was interesting (definitely not just fired clay). Was there some connection with a ceremony at the gate construction ? Even modern people (e.g. the Masai) have symbolic association with red ochre . No metal finds were detected apart from the hobnails.

The following drawings of pottery sherds are worth comparing with some found at Mountcastle Farm (see section 8.1.)

**Pottery from the enclosure ditch
Late Iron Age site , Chapel Farm**

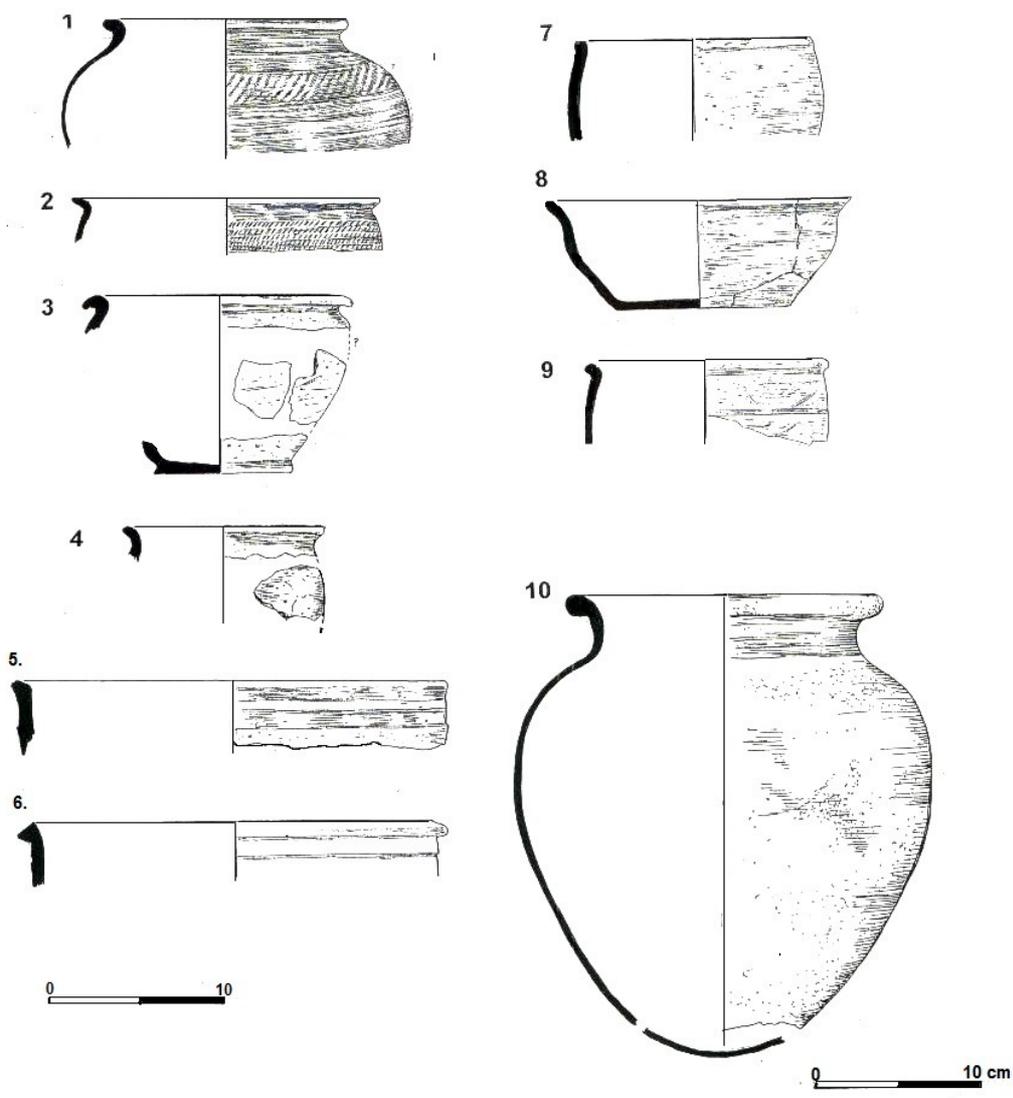


Fig 43

Drawings of pot sherds from the west gate dig .

1. Rouletted , burnished, high fired pot, fine ware khaki coloured, found in association with sand stones packing a possible post hole at the West gate .
2. Rouletted rim, similar ware as the above , Found on the side of the enclosure ditch near its base .
- 3& 4 Sandy ware pots with outward turned rims
5. Beaker, smooth ware with one burnished cordon
- 6 similar with downward turned rim .
- 7-9 Grog tempered ware bowls, typical Iron Age type .
- 10 . shows the 30cm tall sandy ware pot , wheel thrown , very thin for its size , round base and one complete half found (in pieces) as if sliced down the middle .

It would be sensible if the south side of the west gate was revisited and dug ...perhaps the other half of the pot lies there ?

7.6 . Small trial trenches dug in 2005, 2006 & 2008

7.6.i) To try and establish what some of the aerial marks denoted 1mx 1m trial trenches were cut whenever there was time and enough diggers available.

TQ One between the 'Chapel ridge' and the west gate proved to be very soft sand . It came down on a mottled layer (similar to the ditch base of 7.) that was covered in Mesolithic flints lying **as if on their original occupation surface** .



Fig 44

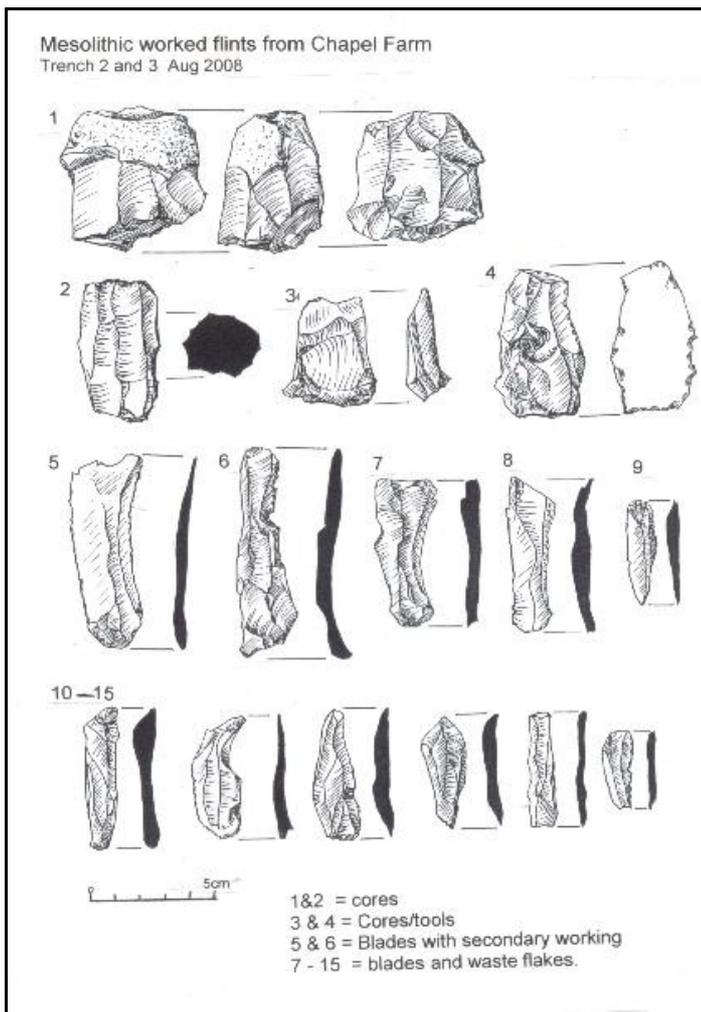


Fig 45

Hundreds of similar Mesolithic flints were found at Sandway on the CTRL excavations but here is a site where they are apparently in situ on an occupation level . The reason For them being so 'shallow' is that the sand has eroded above them over the years . on some occasions people have seen it completely obscuring the Lenham Heath road

Profile of Trial Pit 1 with the Mesolithic flints ... dug at TQ 9050.5020

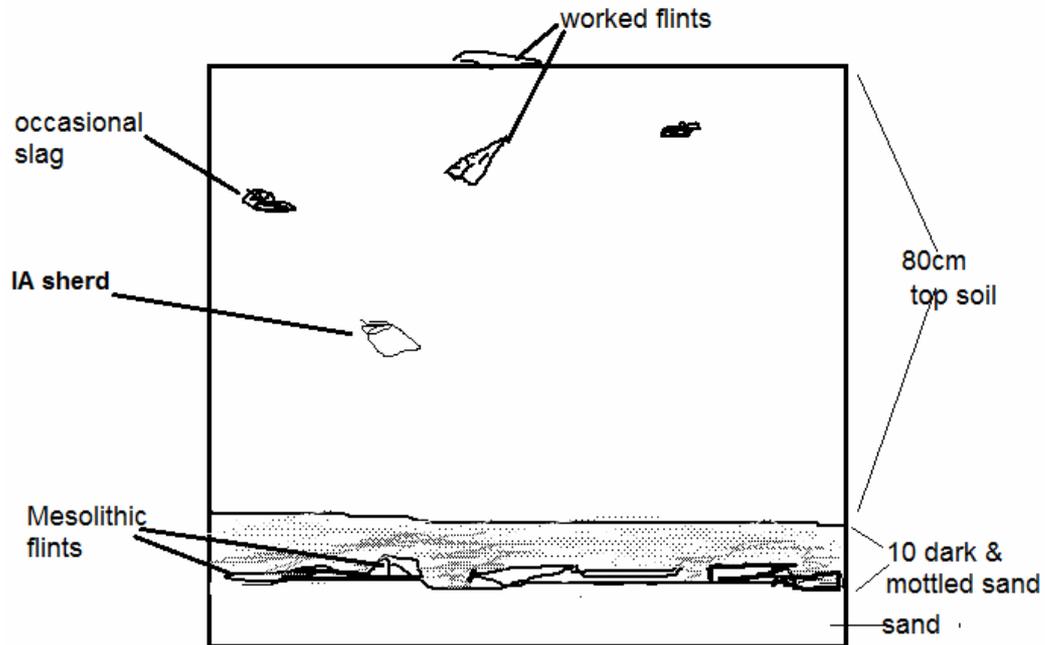


Fig 46

7.6.ii) Trial pit 2.2005 within the Enclosure ..North end TQ9060. 5035

This was dug over a small shadow in the north west area of the enclosure . But not a lot was found .

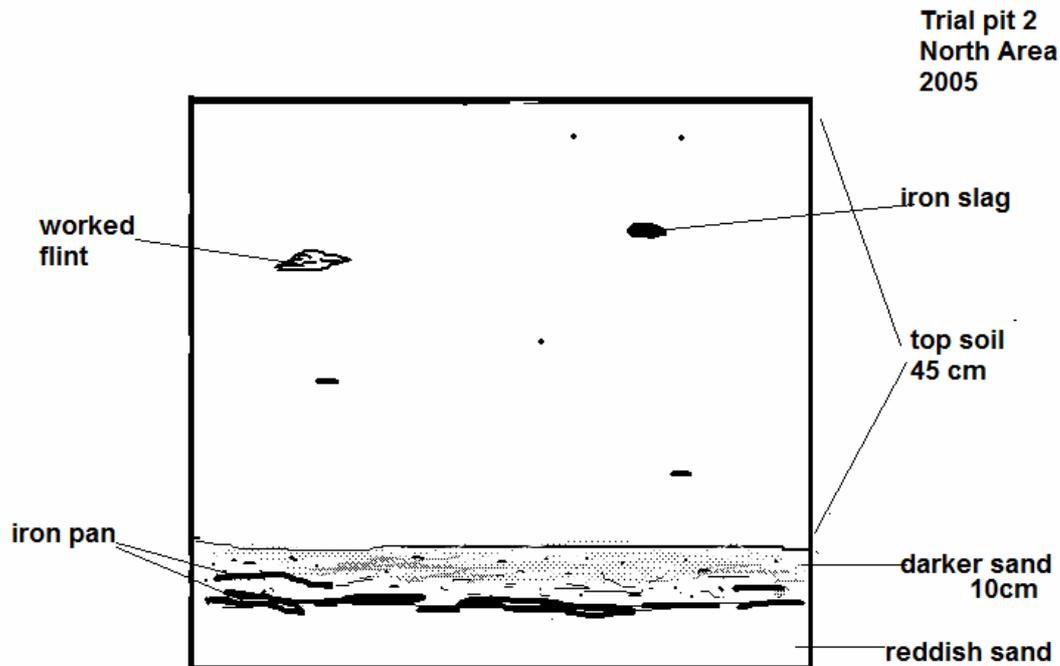


Fig 47.

. The occupation layer for Iron Age was not distinct and the iron pan was present.

The reddish sand beneath it was very dry and 'shifty' not compact and firm like in other places in the enclosure . It gave the impression this was an unused area and might have pasture for animals.

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7.6.ii) Trial pit 3 . dug at TQ9050. 5030 in 2006.

Again this was dug over a shadow on the aerial . Slightly larger trench 150cm square . It proved to have a post hole with sandstone packing and a single sherd of Belgic Grogware inside the post hole . So it was dated as Iron Age .

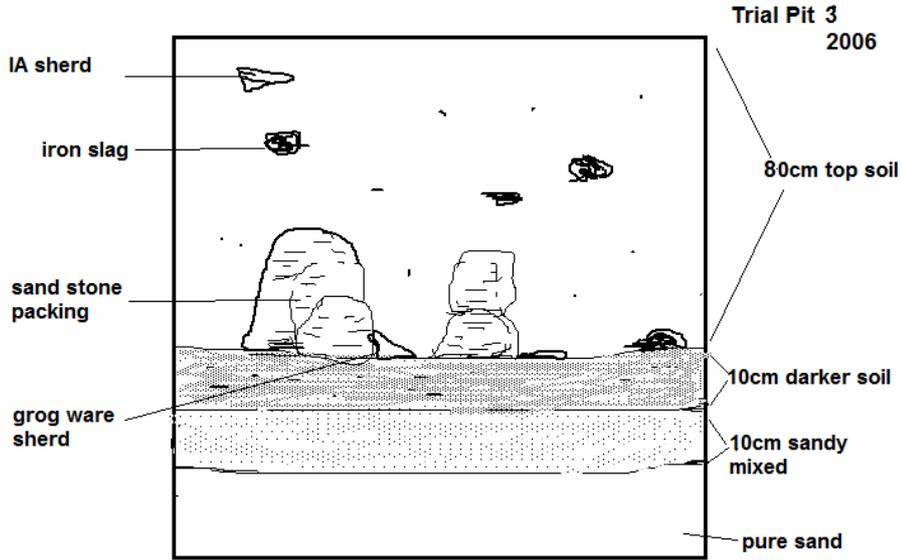


Fig. 48

There was no iron pan and the occasional small lump of iron slag . Why there should be a post set in this position was anybody's guess .



Fig 49 Sandstone post packing

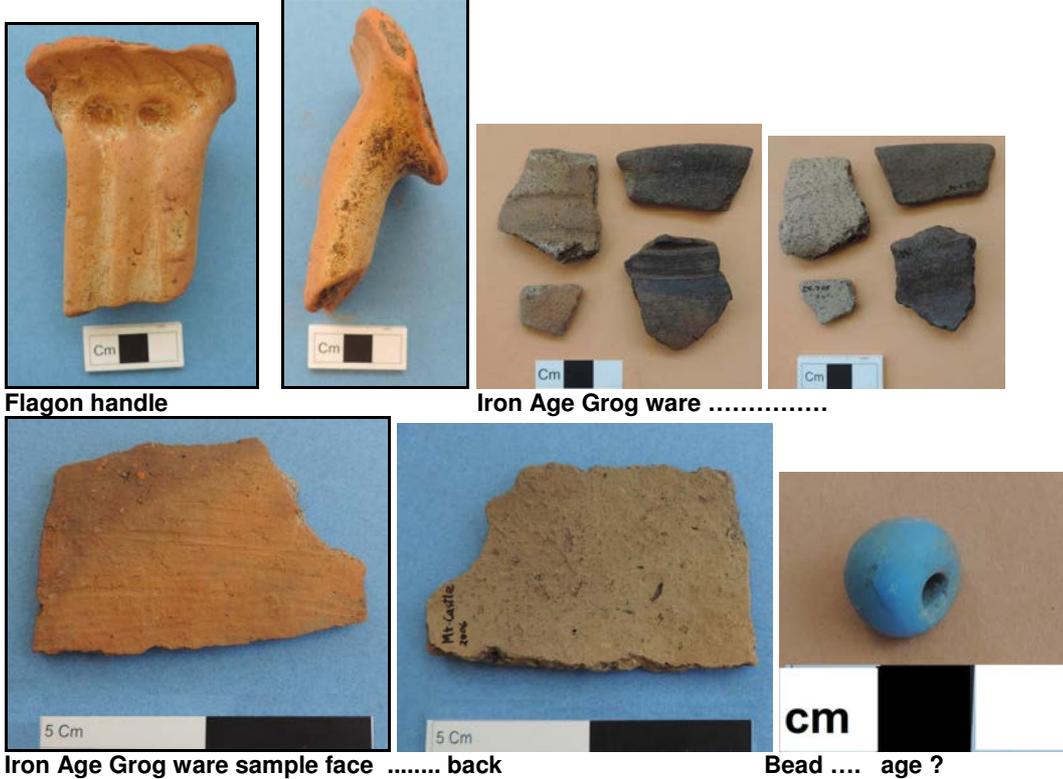
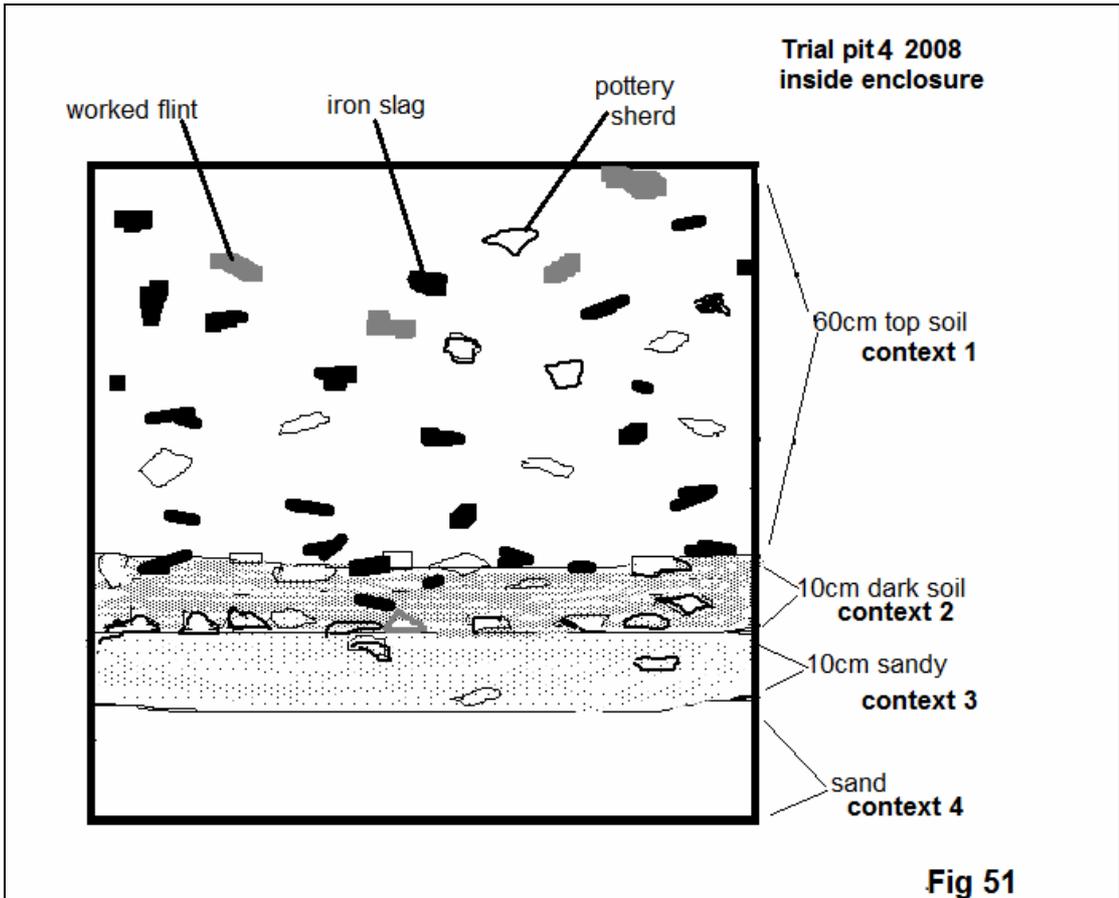


Brendan Frazer-Tomlins digging

Fig 50

7. 6 iv)

This was 1m x1m trial trench dug within the enclosure (see Diag. fig 5)
 Even at 35 cm depth there were numerous sherds and iron slag .It was very difficult to determine any structure and the jumble of finds seem to denote occupation hut over hut .
 One rather distinctive flagon was found . Terracotta clay body with creamy coloured coating and a fairly straight handle with two dimples on its connecting place. This is probably imported but on the other hand could have been made on site and its age can be Roman through to medieval ! Towards the top of the trench was a turquoise blue glass bead . It looked modern but could quite easily be Iron Age .
 When there is a multiphase site on sand such as this that has been ploughed it is difficult to determine the age and which context things have come from as items get muddled up so the assorted finds in this one were a puzzle . Is the bead Roman , Saxon or modern ?
 As per usual this trial trench also had slag and a few worked flints .



The pottery (except for the handle) was definitely late Iron Age and mostly grog ware a few sandy ware pieces .

Surface find :-

One member of LAS found this particular quern stone just east of the enclosure where more ditches and features stated showing on the 2013 aerial
This rotary quern is made of vesicular lava from the Eifel Hills region of Germany and identified by Dr David Williams of Southampton U . These type of quern stones were imported from Germany in large numbers from early Roman times well into the Medieval period (Peacock, 1980) . But considering its position , even though in plough soil , one could sensibly claim it was early Roman . It was recently stated (A. Fitzpatrick 2017) that they were not imported in Iron Age time , but had he considered this one or made any reference to this site ?.No reason to suppose that it could *not* have been imported in the IA , trade using the River Stour but with other Roman surface finds it was *most likely* Roman in date .
Drawing of this quern was published in our 1st Vol of “Discovering Ancient Lenham” 2006.



Rotary quern found on the surface .



Side view of quern



ventral view