

Lenham Archaeological Society

Field Walking – Barnfield. Lenham Forstal

This is a field west of Mount Castle and north of Mt Castle Lane, abutting the Lenham Forstal Road.

It was expected to have a wealth of finds as it was close to the Iron Age enclosure and the Roman finds of Mount Castle Farm.

A Neolithic stone axe had been found in the garden of a cottage at the Forstal, gold star on this map.



The Post Code is ME17 2 JD

The field proved to have a wealth of finds from Bronze Age blade and Honorius Roman coin right through to Modern. There was a malthouse on Mt Castle Lane in 19th Century.

The field was gridded using marking posts every 20m .and all artefacts retrieved for each 20 m square.

It was not possible to distinguish the sandy ware pottery other than saying it was local 'sandy ware Romano-British' as using the same clay in early medieval times would have produced such a similar product.

In the same way thin Roman tile is almost indistinguishable from later peg tile,
It would take thermoluminescence to determine their exact firing date, which is expensive.

The soil is extremely sand and therefore more likely to have had traditional cob housing than Roman.

The age of Frogshole Cottage is unknown but a building shadow does show on 1960 aerial,

Three kilns were found in the northern part of the field and this was called Brickyards on the 1841 Tithe map.

One cannot assume their age from the name as the presence of numerous pieces might have been noted hence the name.

Attempts was made to excavate them but then heavy rain made things impossible .and farming slot vanished!

It was determined however that they had a floor supported by pilasters that had glazed with a natural bluish- green glaze.

Suggesting that they had been used more than once.

Outstanding Finds

1. Bronze Age rapier blade. (published in Lenham Arch.Soc Journal Edition 3)



2. Roman Fibula Brooch

Roman fibula brooch 1st C

Copper alloy, pin missing. Found near Lenham Forstal.

Finder: Graham Gandon



3. Roman coin – Honorius. Mint mark Aquiliea 402-408 AD



4. Roman Pilum



pilum

This was found by a metal detectorists. Not unusual except there is a defile, large, deep, surrounded by woods #

Except on south side, field called "High Crosses", only opening by the water meadows of the Stour
Worth investigating to see if there is a whole lot more?

5. Saxon stirrup mount



These finds were returned to the owner of the field, Mrs Burgess.