

Excavations at Taynard Farm, Lenham

Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Lenham

Bronze Age Lenham

The Bronze Age in Britain began around the early 2nd millennium BC, ending at 750BC. During the Bronze Age, metal working became more of a refined skill, and more notably, humans lived in more substantial structures than before. It was during this period when Britons began to be cremated after death, and buried underneath barrows. Below, you can see a drone photo showing the faint outline of a ring gully. From parallels on other sites and academic research, our current interpretation is that this a barrow. Three cremations have been identified within the barrow, and six urn cremations within 3 meters of it.

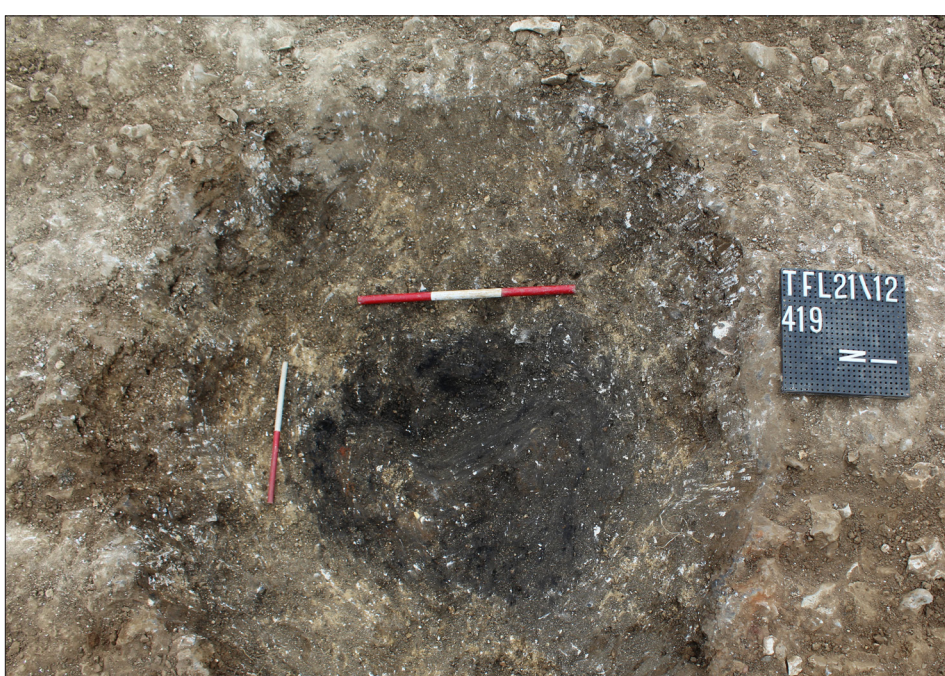


You can see the faint circle in the picture that outlines the edge of the Bronze Age barrow. Currently in this photograph, it is overlain by various spread of Iron Age and Roman archaeology.



Urns found underneath the spread mentioned above. The urns are in a very well preserved condition, and would contain burnt bone and other materials associated with the body that was cremated.

A few cremations without urns have been found on site, where the cremated material has been buried directly into the ground, as shown with the image on the left.



Iron Age Lenham

During The Iron Age, contact between Kent and the continent became increasingly frequent. The archaeological evidence show new forms of pottery, burial rites and ornamentation towards the end of the period, and the burial pits found at Lenham fit perfectly into this period. The person was cremated and buried with a few Roman vessels, probably imported. One brooch recovered from the pit can be dated to between 20-40AD.



Late Iron Age burial,
including Roman
pottery

Roman Lenham

Roman Occupation in Britain began in AD 43, with the Claudian invasions, the Romans remained in Britain up until roughly AD410. Due to the vast amounts of pottery found at the site, we can estimate that the occupation of the Romans in Lenham dated from the 1st to the mid 4th century. The evidence encountered at the site is diverse, with pottery, animal bones, coins, glass, worked bone, metal-work, and structures such as a well, a corn dryer or trackway. The economic effort involved in building these structures is clear evidence of permanent occupation of the site, as well as a move towards more complex farming.



The photos show the well and its construction. The original cut was c.1m in diameter, and a flint and chalk lining was built. Around the flint was then backfilled with rubble and soil. Two large capping stones remained on the west side.