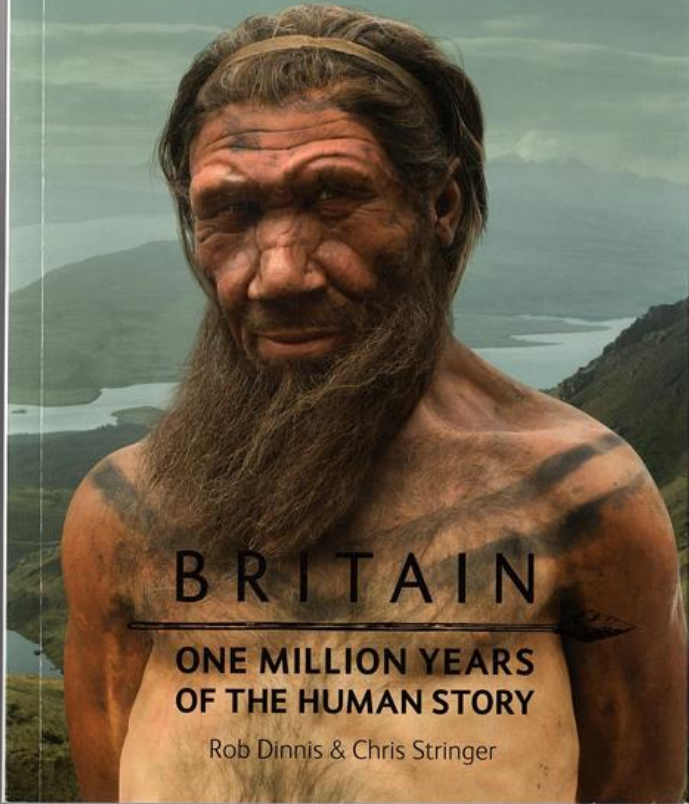


Ancient Britain

7

Celtic Britain

N NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM



BRITAIN

**ONE MILLION YEARS
OF THE HUMAN STORY**

Rob Dinnis & Chris Stringer

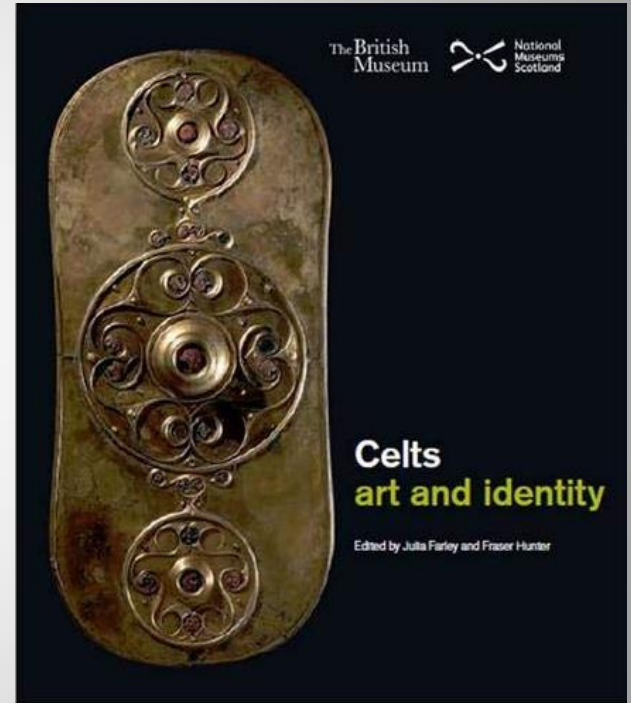
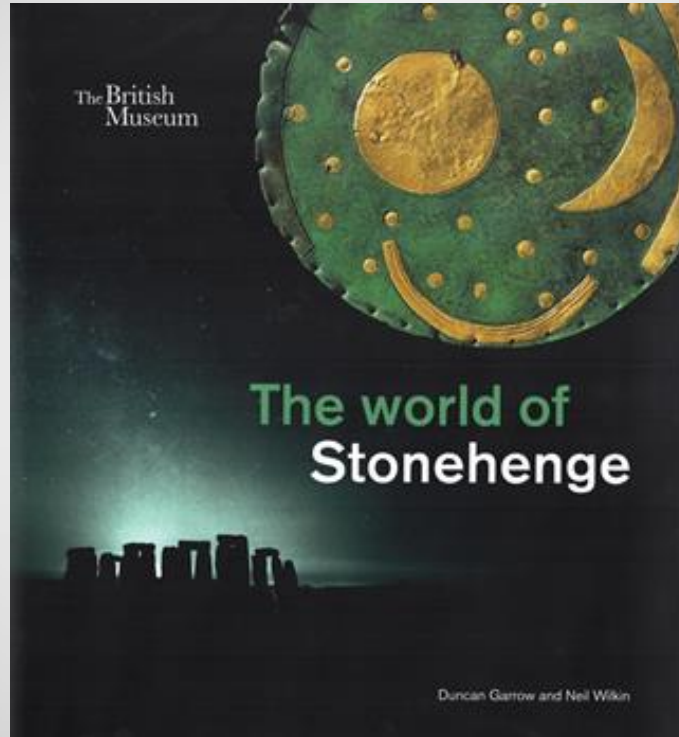
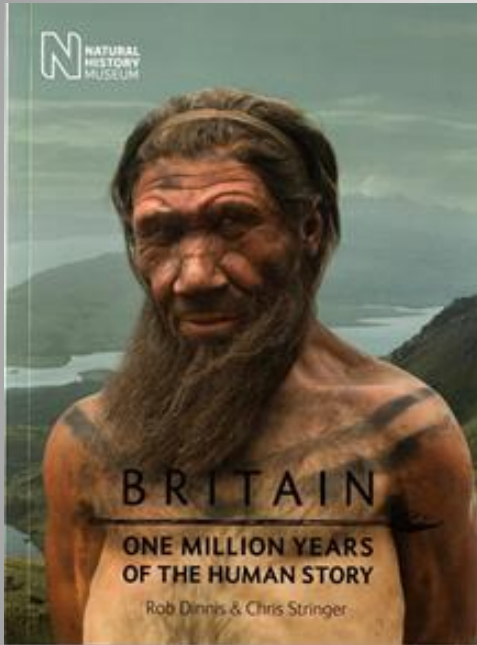
The British
Museum

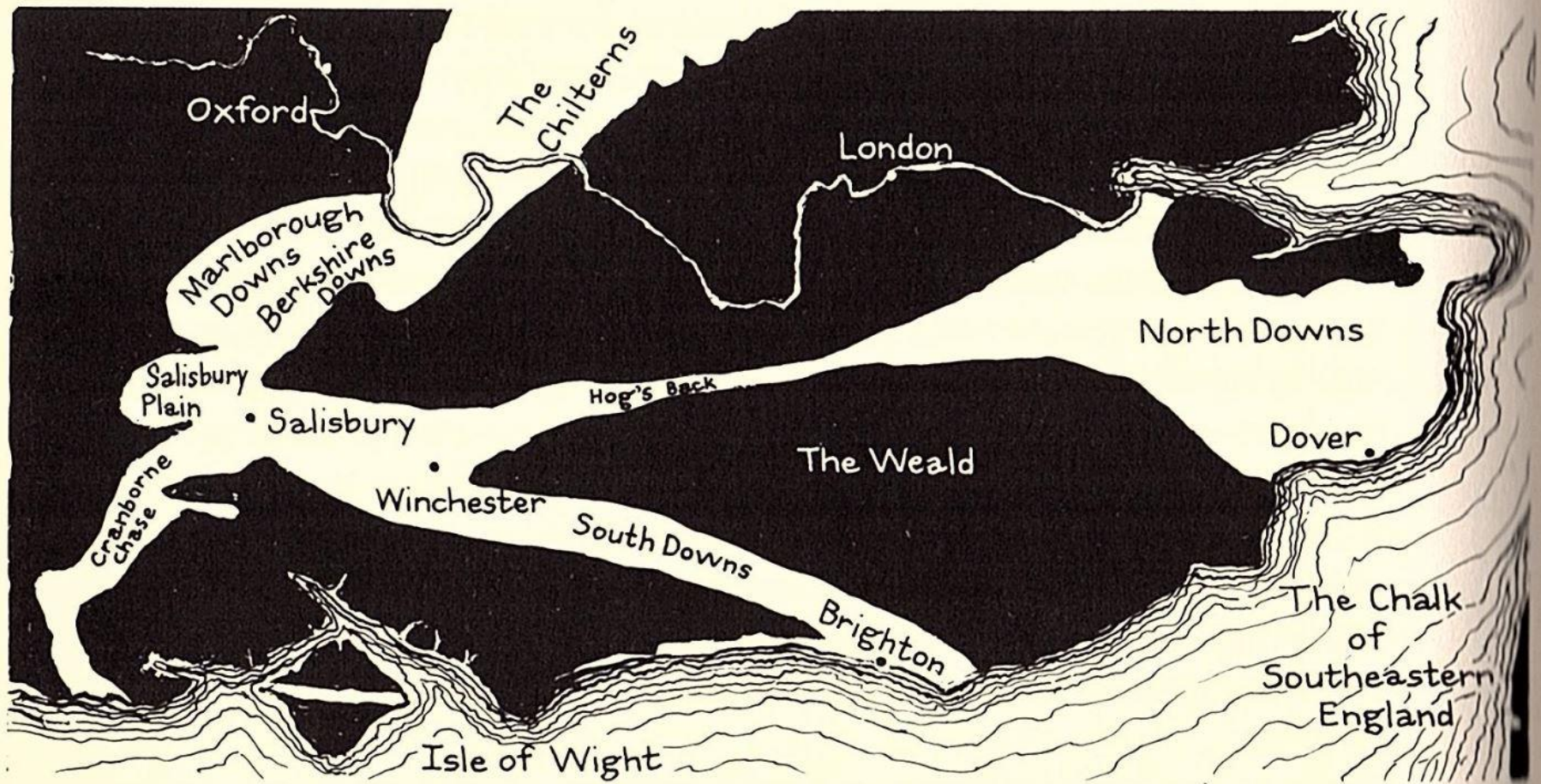


**The world of
Stonehenge**




Duncan Garrow and Neil Wilkin









Spencer Gore: *Icknield Way*, 1912. 
Used as the cover picture of "*The Icknield Way Path - A Walkers' Guide*"
published by the Icknield Way
Association in 2012



Pablo Picasso



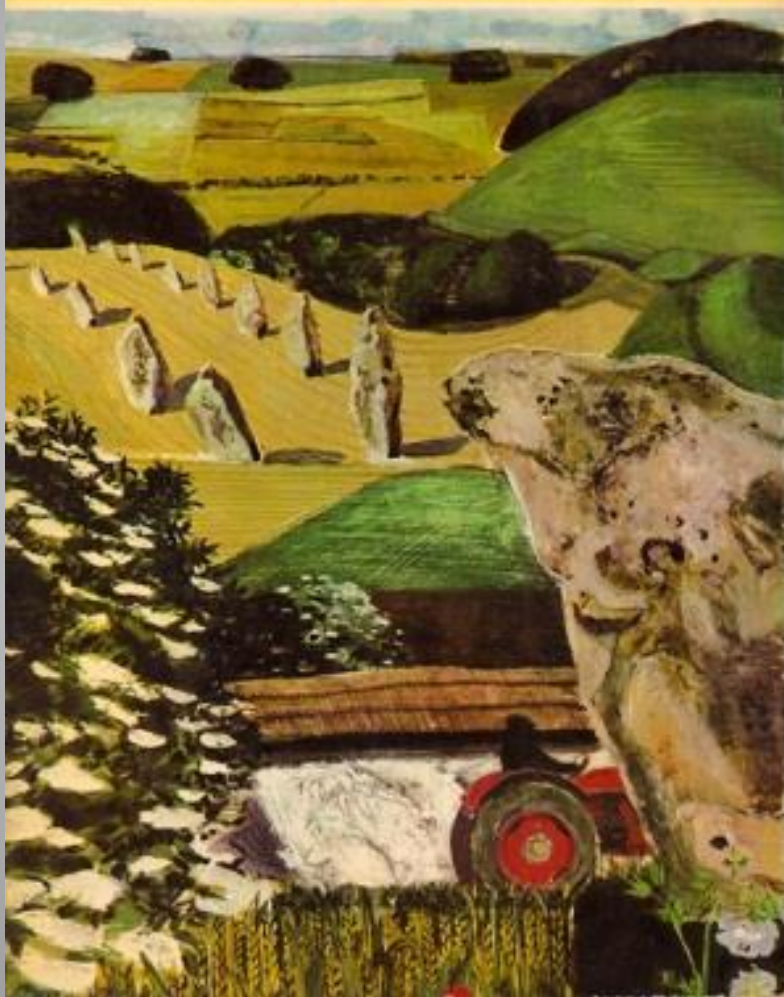
John Piper, *Archaeological Wiltshire*, watercolour, ink, gouache, and collage, 1936-1937. (Image: Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh)



THE SHILLING GUIDES



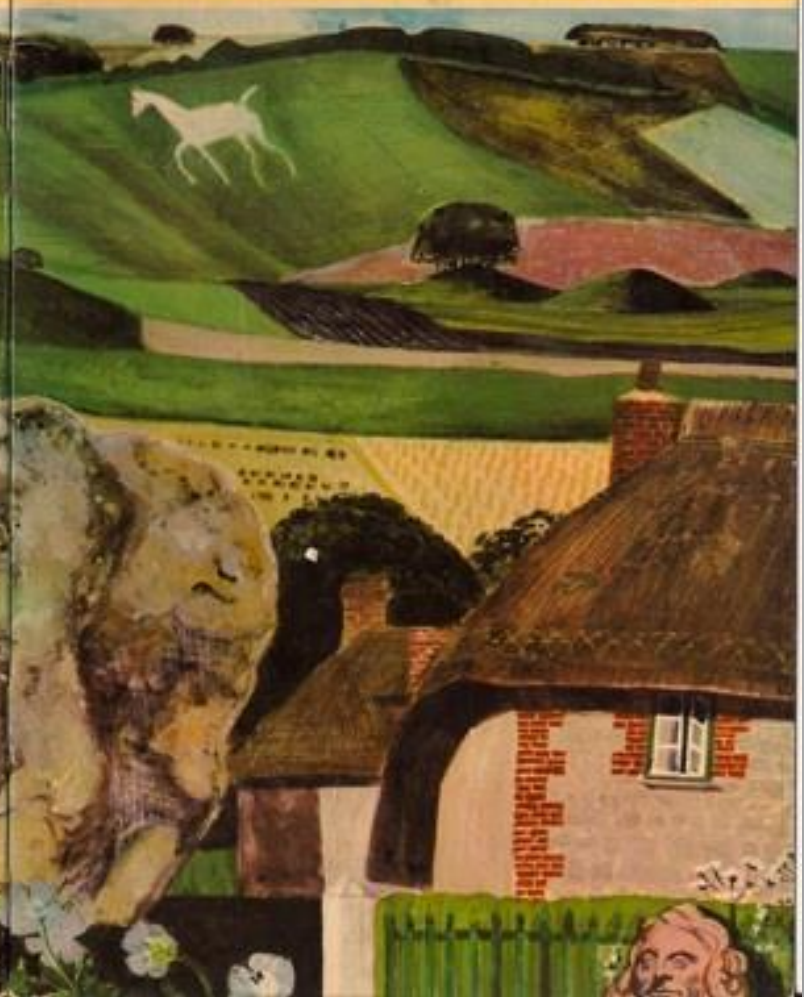
WILTSHIRE



THE SHILLING GUIDES



WILTSHIRE





Paul Nash, *Landscape of the Megaliths*, colour lithograph, 1937. Nash gave an impression of this lithograph to archaeologist Stuart Piggott. (Image: Victoria & Albert Museum)



WHITELEAF CROSS 1922

Paul Nash (1889 – 1946)



Paul Nash in his studio working on *Landscape of the Vernal Equinox* (1944), his mystical view of the downlands, with the distinctive beech trees of Wittenham Clumps.







White Horse, Eric Ravilious 1939



Cover illustration: *Figures in a Wiltshire Landscape, a Moment* 1985–7
Oil on canvas by David Inshaw (reproduced by kind permission of the artist)

Francis Kyle Collection

[Home](#) [Artists](#) [Previous Exhibitions](#) [News](#) [Posters](#) [Original Prints](#) [Calendar](#) [Publications](#) [Location](#) [Contact](#) [Gallery History](#)



Francis Kyle Gallery has left Maddox Street after 36 exciting years in Mayfair. We can, however, still arrange viewings by appointment of works by many of our artists and we can be reached at franciskylegallery@gmail.com.

For more information, click on an artist's name...

[Hugh Barnden](#)

[Lydia Corbett / Sylvette David](#)

[Robbie Duff-Scott \(1959-2016\)](#)

[John Fisher](#)

[Ulf Greder](#)

[Graham Hillier \(1946-1956\)](#)

[Paul Hogarth OBE RA \(1917-2001\)](#)

[François Houtin](#)

[Steven Hubbard](#)

[Phillip Hughes](#)

[Barry Kirk](#)

[Jeroen Krabbé](#)

[Michael Marten](#)

[Peter Milton](#)

[Gerald Mynott](#)

[Heather Pocock](#)

[Malte Sartorius](#)

[Alain Senez](#)

[Edward Stone](#)

[Wendy Sutherland](#)

[Julian Vilarrubi](#)

[Jon Wealleans](#)

[Anna Wimbledon](#)



The Ridgeway

The Ridgeway

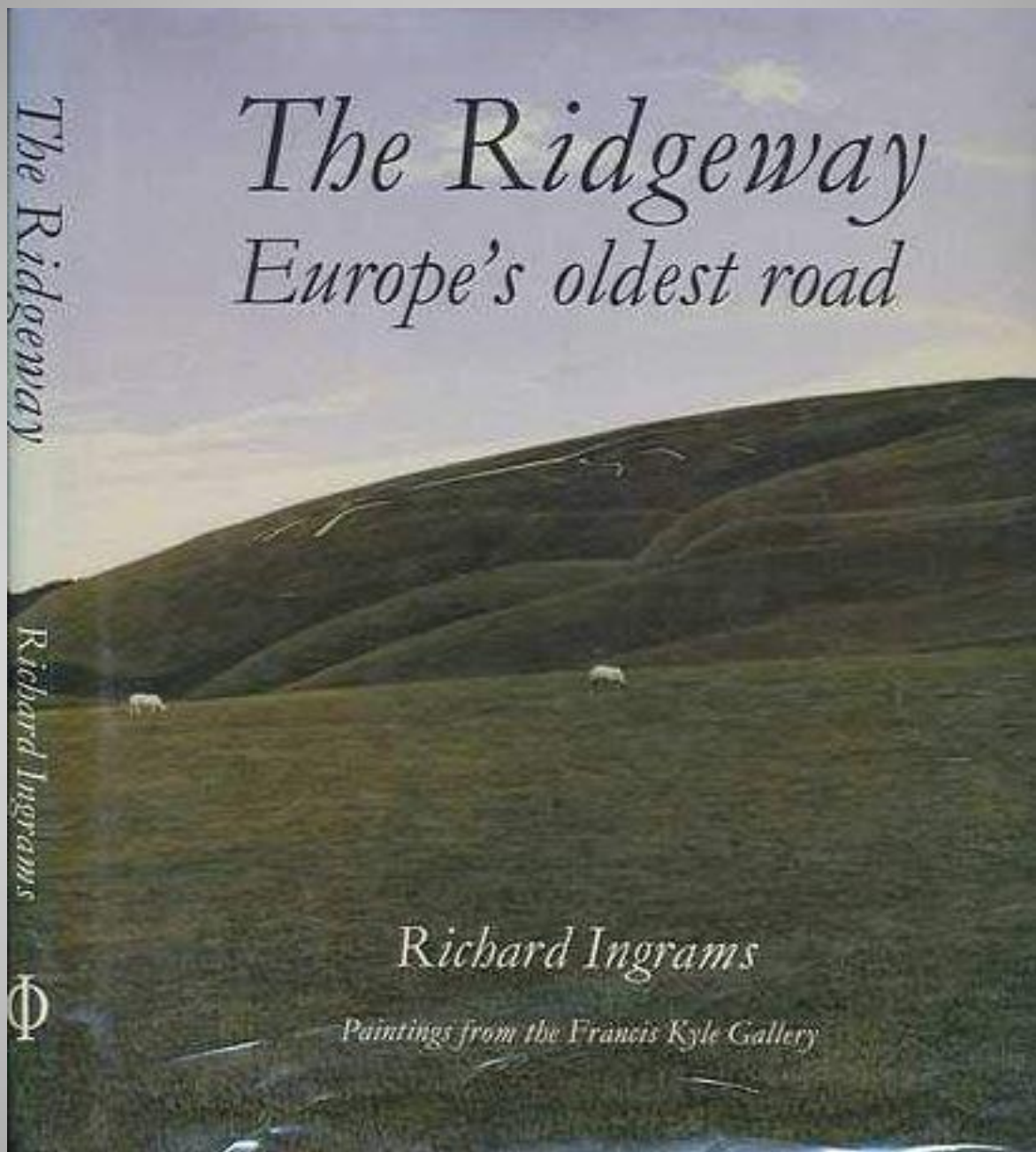
Europe's oldest road

Richard Ingrams

Φ

Richard Ingrams

Paintings from the Francis Kyle Gallery



Phaidon Press Limited, Littlegate House, St. Ebbe's Street,
Oxford OX1 1SQ

First published 1988
© Phaidon Press Limited 1988

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

The Ridgeway: Europe's oldest road.
1. Ridgeway Path (England)—Description
and travel—Views
914.22 DA670.R5/
ISBN 0-7148-2506-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored
in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the
prior permission of Phaidon Press.

All the paintings and drawings reproduced are © the artists.
Above the Spring Line is © Kevin Crossley-Holland 1986.

Printed in Great Britain by Ebenezer Baylis & Son Ltd., The Trinity Press,
Worcester and London

*The endpapers are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey of England and Wales
¼-inch map series, Sheet 19, published in 1900. Courtesy Bodleian Library, Oxford*

Page 2: Graham Hillier. From Hackpen. Acrylic, 1986



Right:
Gordon Joy. Cornfields near
Coombe Hill (Icknield Way).
Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Robert Collins. Woodland path,
Streatley. Oil, 1985



*Gordon Joy. View towards
Streatley from Warren Farm.
Acrylic, 1986*



Right:
Philip Hughes. Wether Down,
looking west. *Mixed media, 1986*



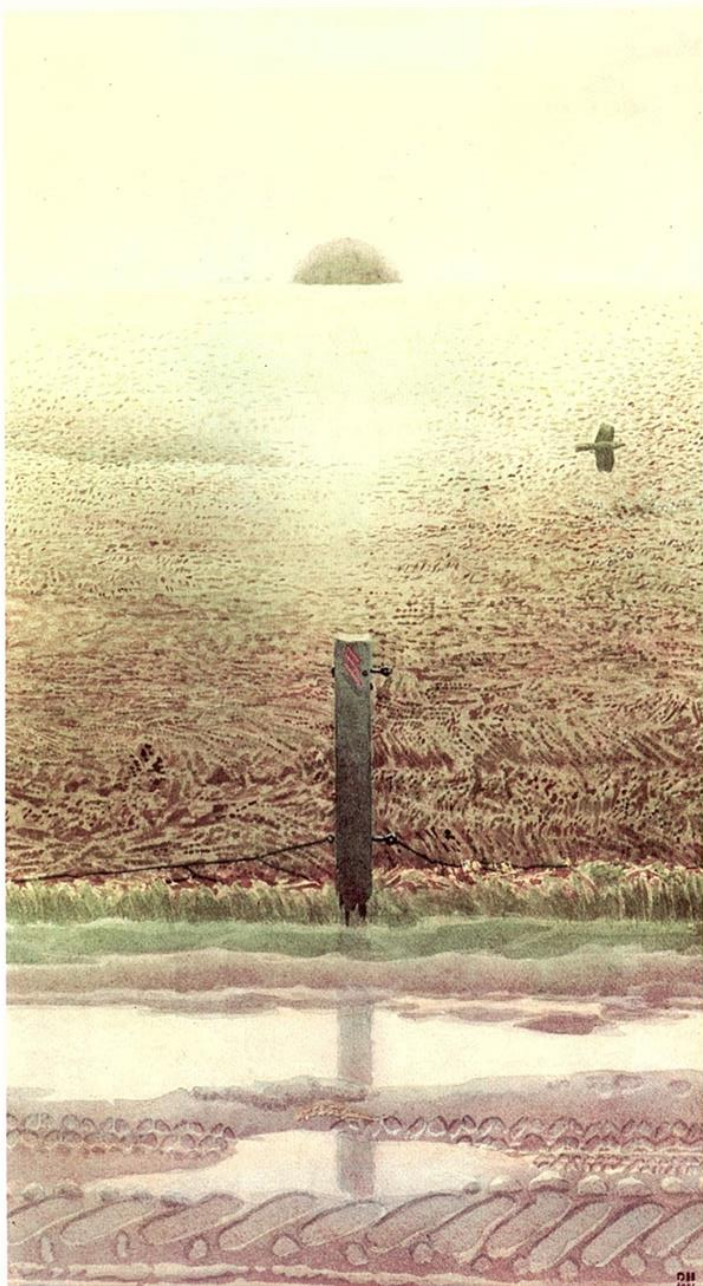
*Douglas Harding. Scutchamer Knob.
Acrylic on paper, 1986*



Right:
*Jonathan Briggs. The path across
the field. Acrylic, 1985*



Right:
Jonathan Briggs. Cloud shadows,
looking north towards
Childrey Warren. Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Douglas Harding. Sparsholt
Down. Acrylic on paper, 1986



Right:
Graham Hillier. The Vale of the
White Horse. Acrylic, 1986



*Patrick Malacarnet. White
Horse country. Tempora, 1986*



Right:
Robert Collins. Poppy field east
of Uffington. Oil, 1985



Right:
Graham Hillier. Uffington
Castle, early morning. *Acrylic*,
1985



*Keith Grant. Uffington Horse
and White Horse Hill. Oil and
acrylic, 1986*



Right:
John Blandy. Over the Manger
towards Dragon Hill and the
White Horse. Pastel, 1986



Right :
Graham Hillier. From
Uffington, looking east at
dawn. Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Jonathan Briggs. Evening sky,
near Rats Hill. Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Graham Hillier. Looking east
from Liddington Castle.
Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Grabam Hillier. Wayland's
Smithy from Uffington Castle.
Acrylic, 1985



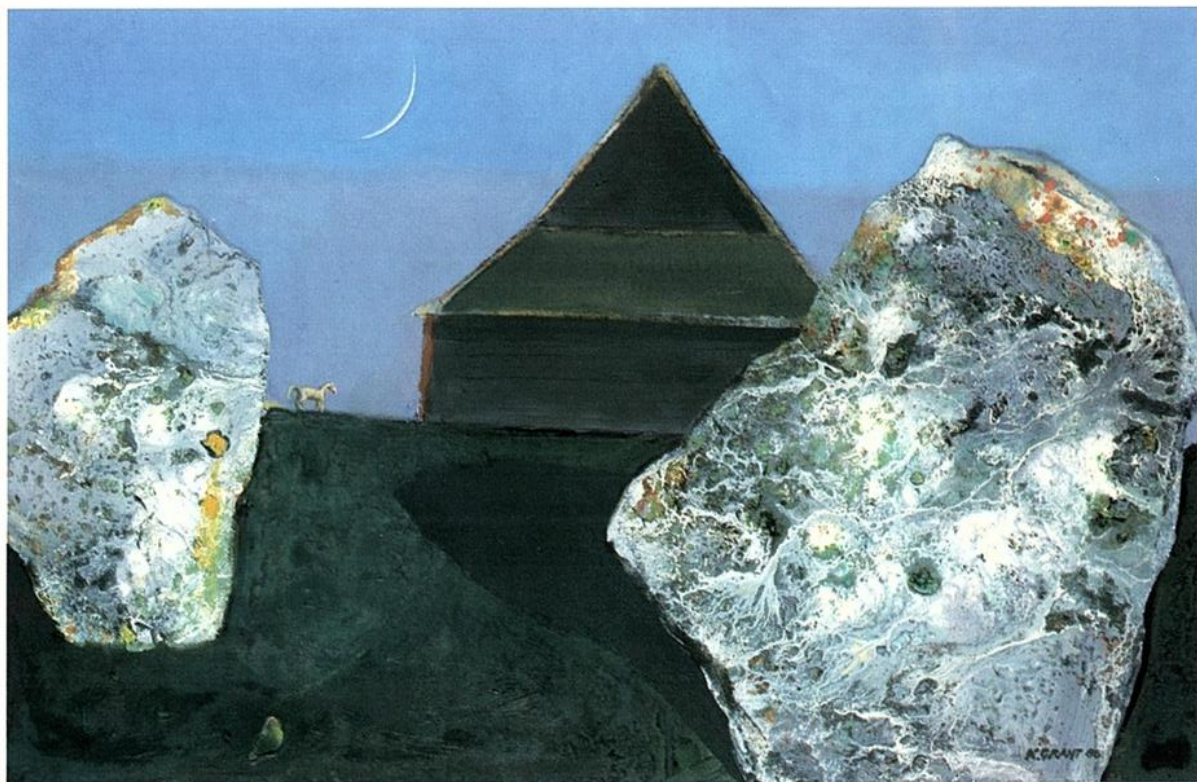
Right:
*Philip Hughes. Strip lynchets
near Bishopstone. Mixed media,
1986*



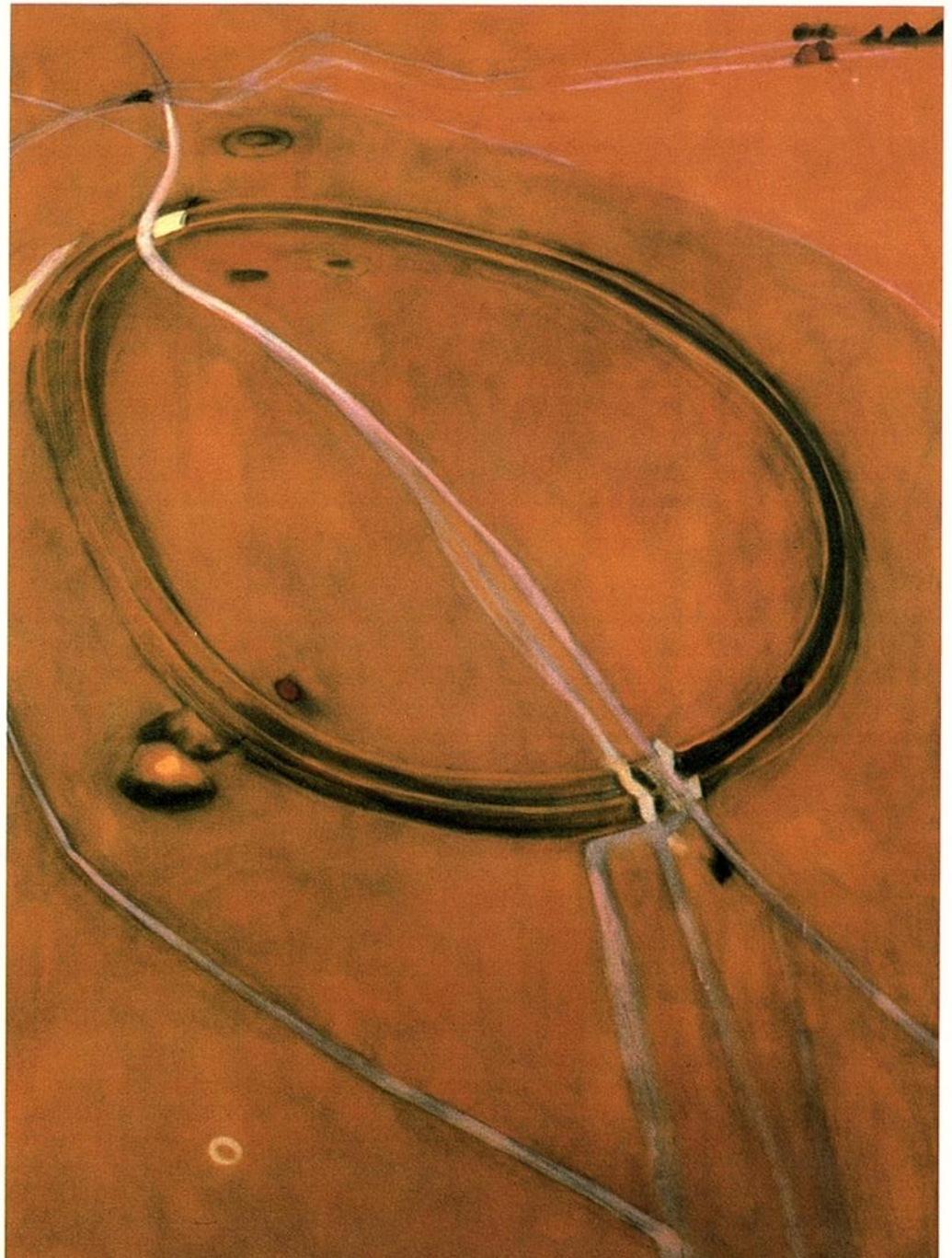
*Graham Hillier. Barbury Castle.
Acrylic, 1986*



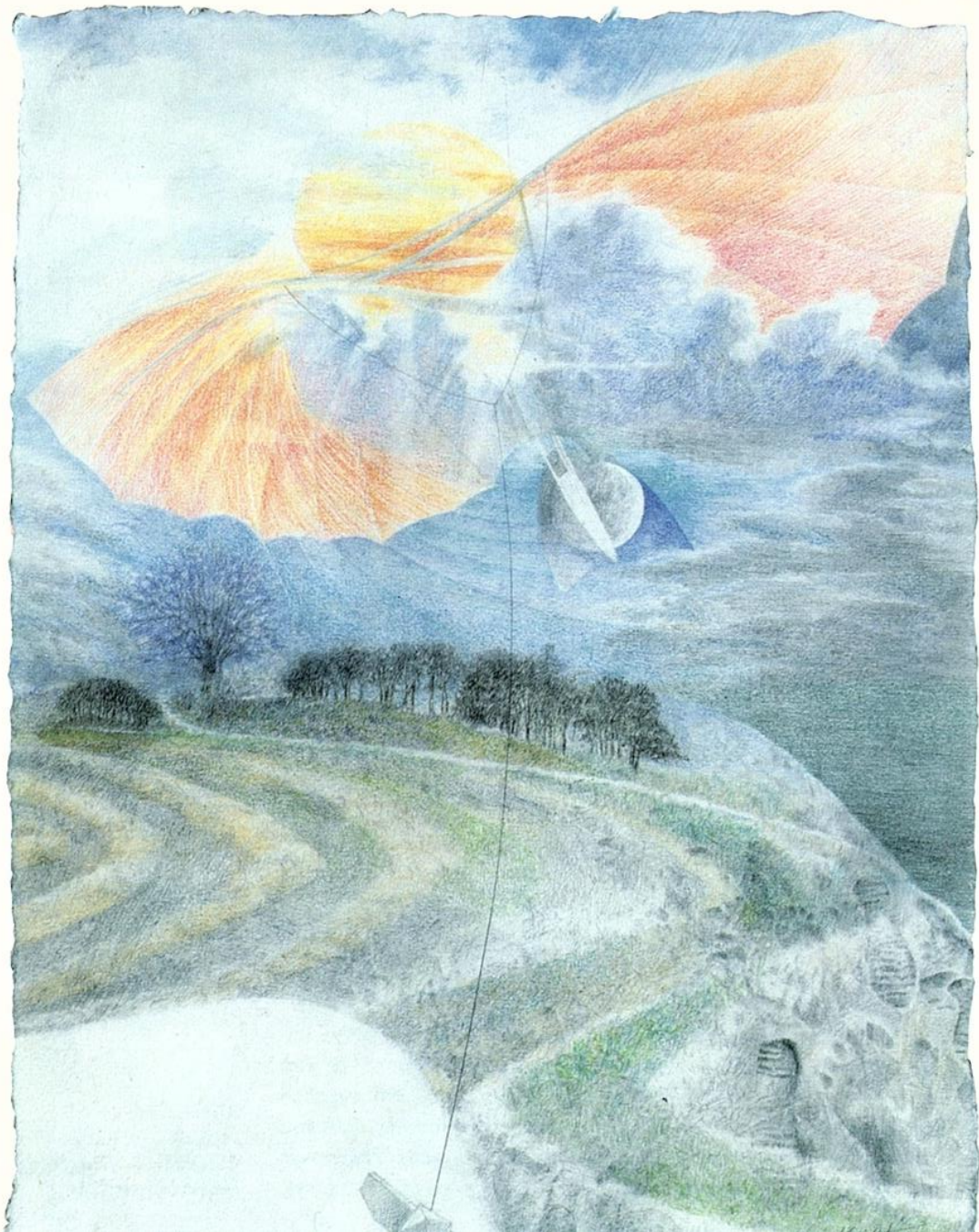
Right:
Gordon Joy. Barbury Castle.
Acrylic, 1985



Right:
Keith Grant. Monoliths, new moon, barn and horse. Oil and acrylic, 1986



Right:
Paola Nero. Barbury Castle. Oil
and alkyd, 1985



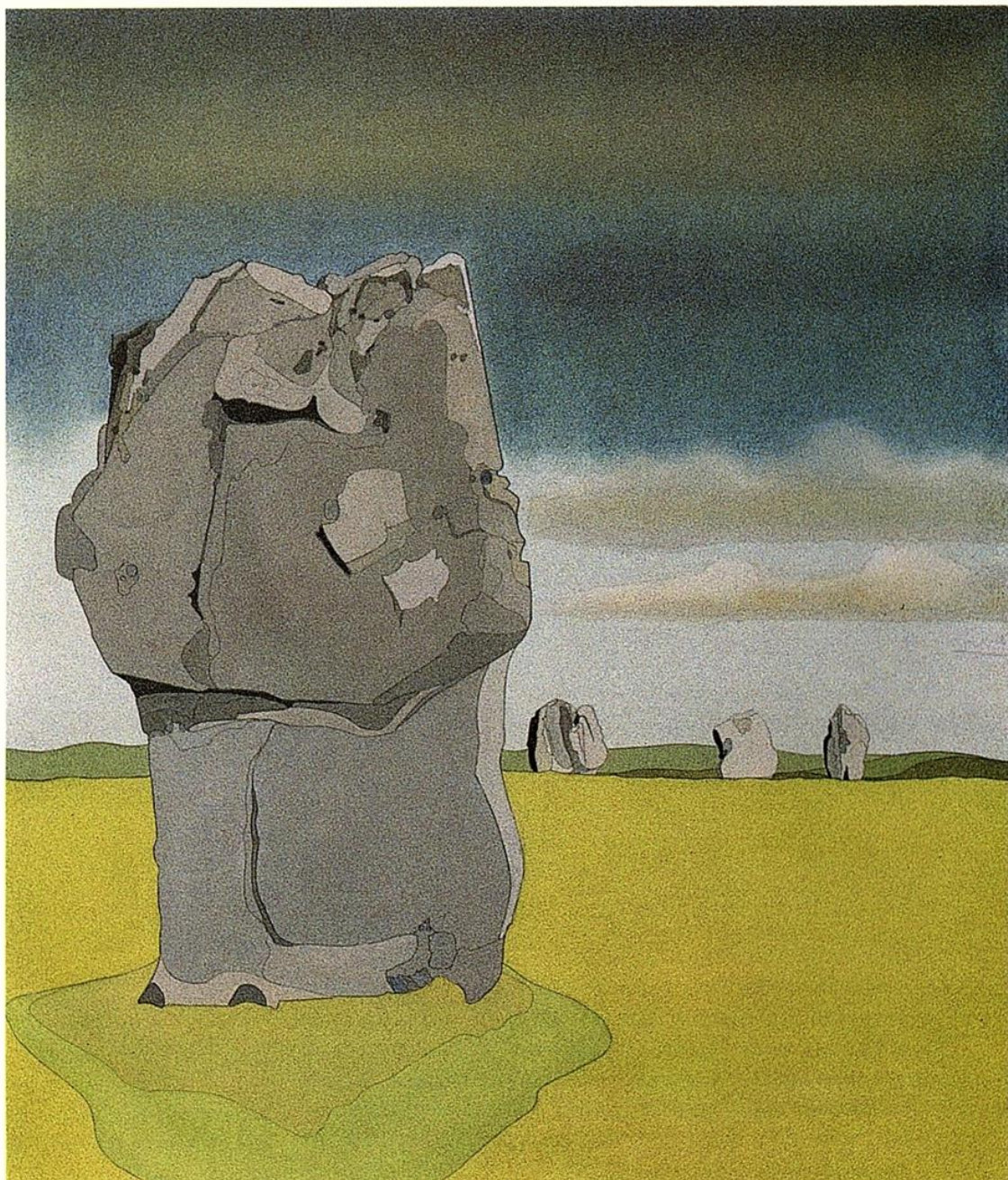
Right:
Anton Krajnc. Early morning at
West Kennett Avenue. Pencil
and crayon on handmade paper,
1986



Right:
Anton Krajnc. Rainbow—the
Ridgeway. Pencil and crayon on
handmade paper, 1986



Right:
Graham Hillier. Standing
stones, Avebury. Acrylic, 1985



*Philip Hughes. Avebury. Mixed
media, 1986*



Right:
Robert Collins. Field with
fence to open country. Oil, 1985



Toulgouat

Right:
Jean-Marie Toulgouat. Ridgeway
landscape, near Avebury. Oil,
1986



Right:
*Patrick Malacarnet. The roofless
past. Tempera, 1986*





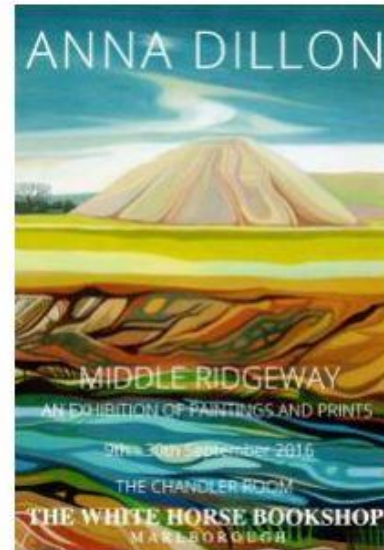
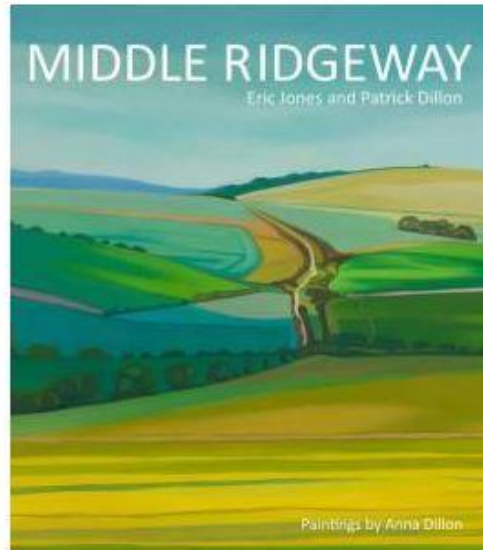
A RIDGEWAY JOURNEY

By Anna Dillon. Landscape Artist.

[Review: Middle Ridgeway by Eric Jones and Patrick Dillon](#)

16/09/2016 in [Exhibitions](#), [Reviews](#) | by [heritageaction](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Middle Ridgeway by Eric Jones and Patrick Dillon accompanied by twenty superb paintings by Anna Dillon, published by Wessex Books, September 8, 2016: £16.95



A sense of heightened anticipation can accompany the opening of any book for the first time, but all the more so when Anna Dillon's magnificent cover illustration projects the reader into the very past and present rhythms of the *Middle Ridgeway*. This book has then a great deal of promise to live up to. Suitably primed the reader will discover the content within is not unlike a magnificent pie: the subject is fondly handled, revered and obscure characters encountered, and a much loved natural world imported to one's fireside. As they journey over an 'ecological island' from Avebury to White Horse Hill and onward to the Goring Gap, the authors carefully guide their readers back and forth across the vast expanse of time and cultural experiences, the unsurpassed illustrations of this chalk landscape by Anna Dillon regularly injecting a joyous spirit and a want to be there. Buy this book and you will never part with it no matter how many times you move or have a clear out, you will cherish it far too much to let it go.

An exhibition of Anna Dillon's paintings accompany the launch of this book, they are on view at the White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough, until 30 September.





A stylized topographic map of a landscape, rendered in various shades of green, yellow, and brown. The map shows a winding river or path through a valley, with contour lines indicating elevation. The overall style is graphic and artistic.

DAVID MILES

THE
LAND
OF THE
WHITE
HORSE

VISIONS OF ENGLAND

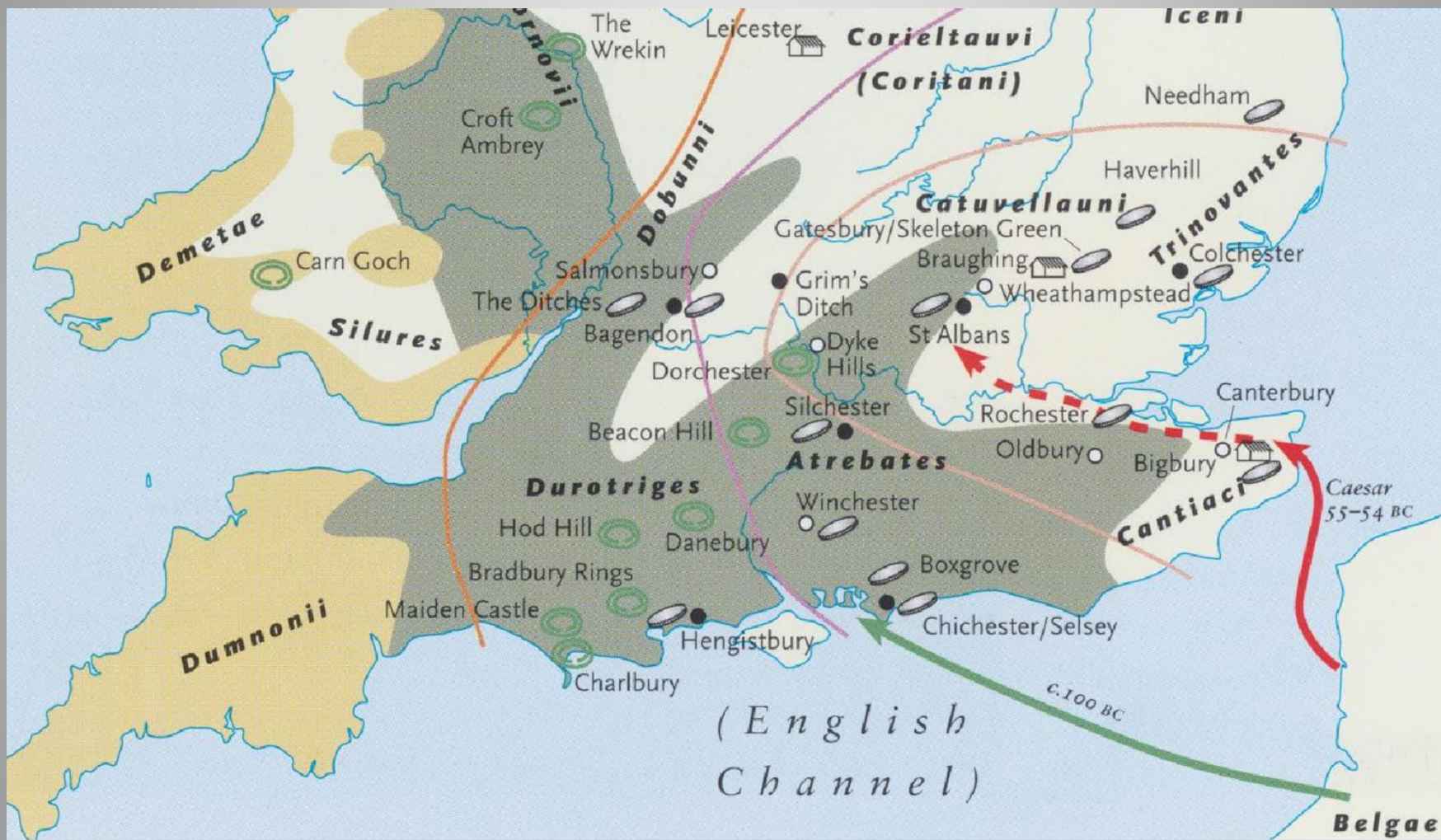
Thames & Hudson

olli.illinois.edu - /downloads/studygroups/2020 Fall Study Groups/The Oldest Road/

[\[To Parent Directory\]](#)

3/9/2020	9:19 PM	75918218	Grigson, Shell Country Alphabet articles.pdf
11/3/2020	1:42 PM	9893071	The Oldest Road 1.pdf
11/10/2020	10:47 AM	57674255	The Oldest Road 2.pdf
11/17/2020	10:29 AM	27305454	The Oldest Road 3.pdf
12/1/2020	2:04 PM	53166764	The Oldest Road 4.pdf
12/8/2020	12:22 PM	53866483	The Oldest Road 5.pdf
12/15/2020	9:47 AM	73864719	The Oldest Road 6 North and South Downs and Weald.pdf

All the PowerPoint shows from the “Oldest Road” study group are available for viewing or download on the OLLI website.





Excarnation was probably the normal disposal rite for the dead over much of central southern Britain during the Iron Age. Bodies are likely to have been exposed on platforms until the flesh had largely rotted. The bones of ancestors could then be collected and used in other rituals or simply reburied.

WALKER'S
BRITAINThe Complete Pocket Guide
to over 240 Walks
and RamblesREVISED &
UPDATED EDITION

THE WESSEX DOWNS

The Ridgeway

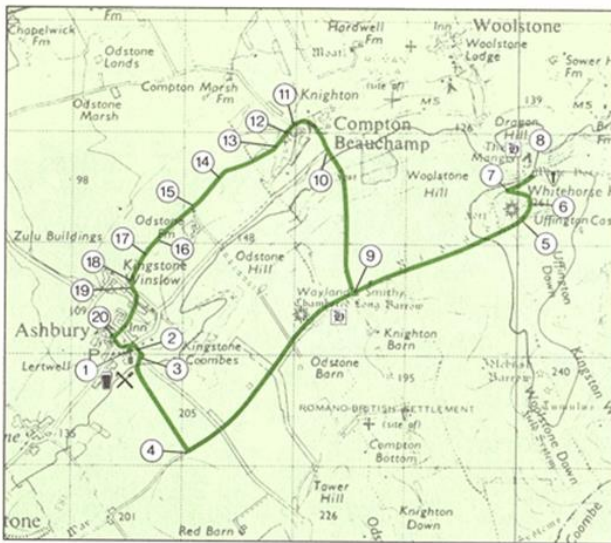
6½ miles (10.5 km) Sheet 174 265851

Easy An introduction to the Ridgeway long-distance path and some of its most famous features. The Ridgeway is popular, so choose an off-peak time if possible. *Downland, farmland; one climb; the chalk is slippery after rain and sticks to footwear.*

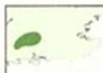
Start Ashbury, on the B4000. In village turn on to the B4507 and look for Rose and Crown; frequent buses. **Parking** Rose and Crown car park.

1 From car park turn right and walk along road to its junction with the B4000 (Lambourn Road) where 2 turn right and continue a few yards. 3 Turn right at Ridgeway sign and follow the path through the gate up the hill. 4 At the double lines of quicket (small thorn trees) bordering the Ridgeway, turn left and follow the wide

track for just over 2 miles (3 km). 5 Pass the embankments of Uffington Castle on left, ignoring first footpath sign on left. Turn left at the second footpath sign towards the Castle. 6 Follow the embankment round (grassy area of Castle centre on left) but do not descend the hill. 7 When the embankments turn left, leave them and turn right (past 2 isolated thorn trees) and walk a few yards along the down for a magnificent view of The Manger and Dragon Hill; also portions of the White Horse. 8 Retrace steps along Ridgeway about one mile (1.5 km) until reaching the cross-lanes just before Wayland's Smithy. 9 Turn right along the metalled track. 10 Cross the B4057 (The Icknield Way) and carry straight on following the sign to 'Compton Beauchamp at foot of hill'. 11 Turn left along the lane to the right of Compton House leading to the church. 12 Go through wicket gate just to right of church gate and walk up field to farm gate ahead. 13 Go through gate, turn



THE WESSEX DOWNS



half right and cross next field, leaving corner of wood on right and clump of trees on hilltop well over to left. Continue on this line diagonally to cross 2 fences, looking ahead for small gate in corner of second field. (Path is indistinct.) 14 Go through gate, and with fence on left, follow field edge to cross stiles either side of a bridge. 15 Pass farm leaving it to left and continue through all gates, going straight ahead until line of power cables comes into view. 16 Bear left to follow line of power cables, crossing 2 stiles to fence on left. 17 Go straight on, fence and power cables on left; the path soon becomes a wide, fenced way. 18 Cross track by 2 stiles and continue round slightly left to go through a gate (marked with yellow arrow footpath sign) to join lane running through Kingstone Winslow. 19 From the gate turn left, then almost immediately right down small lane crossing a stream and rising to Ashbury. 20 After crossing B4000 take next left, then left again for the Rose and Crown.

1 Rose and Crown—try the home-made steak and kidney pie or mussels with shrimps and garlic.

2 Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic barrow or burial mound; legend told that Wayland, smith to the Saxon gods, would shoe a horse left with a coin by the tomb.

3 The Ridgeway (see pp. 328-34), possibly the oldest road in Europe, could date from before the last Ice Age—about 11,000 BC.

4 Uffington, a fine hill fort—500 BC.

5 The early chapters of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* are set among these downs.

6 Where St. George killed the dragon.

The White Horse's date and manner of carving remain a mystery.

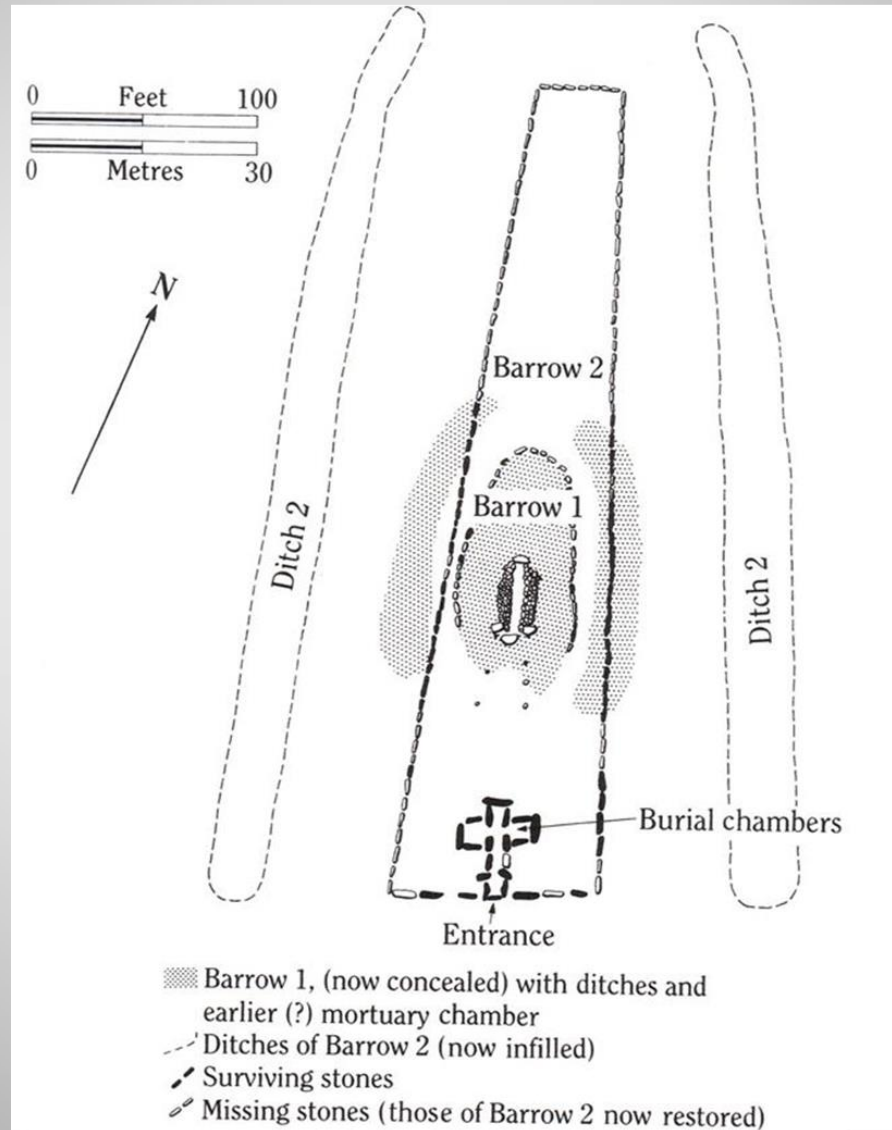


The Ridgeway video:

Wayland's Smithy, Uffington Castle, and the White Horse



Wayland's Smithy



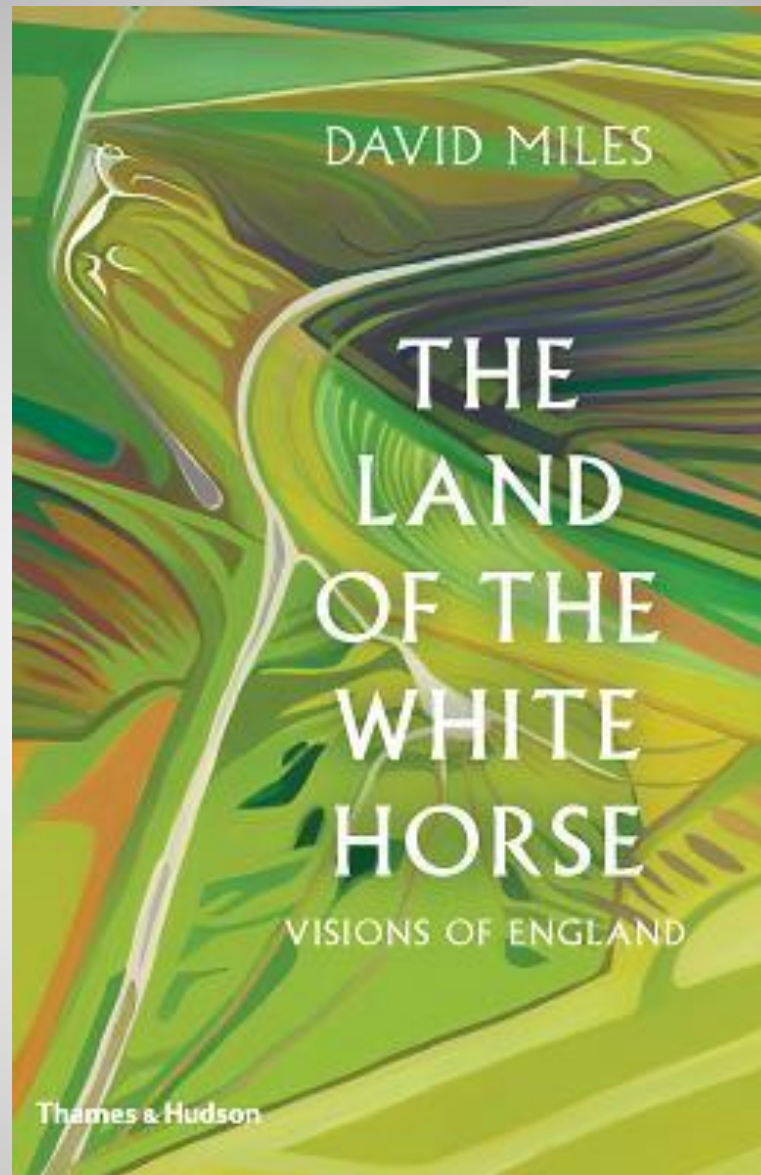




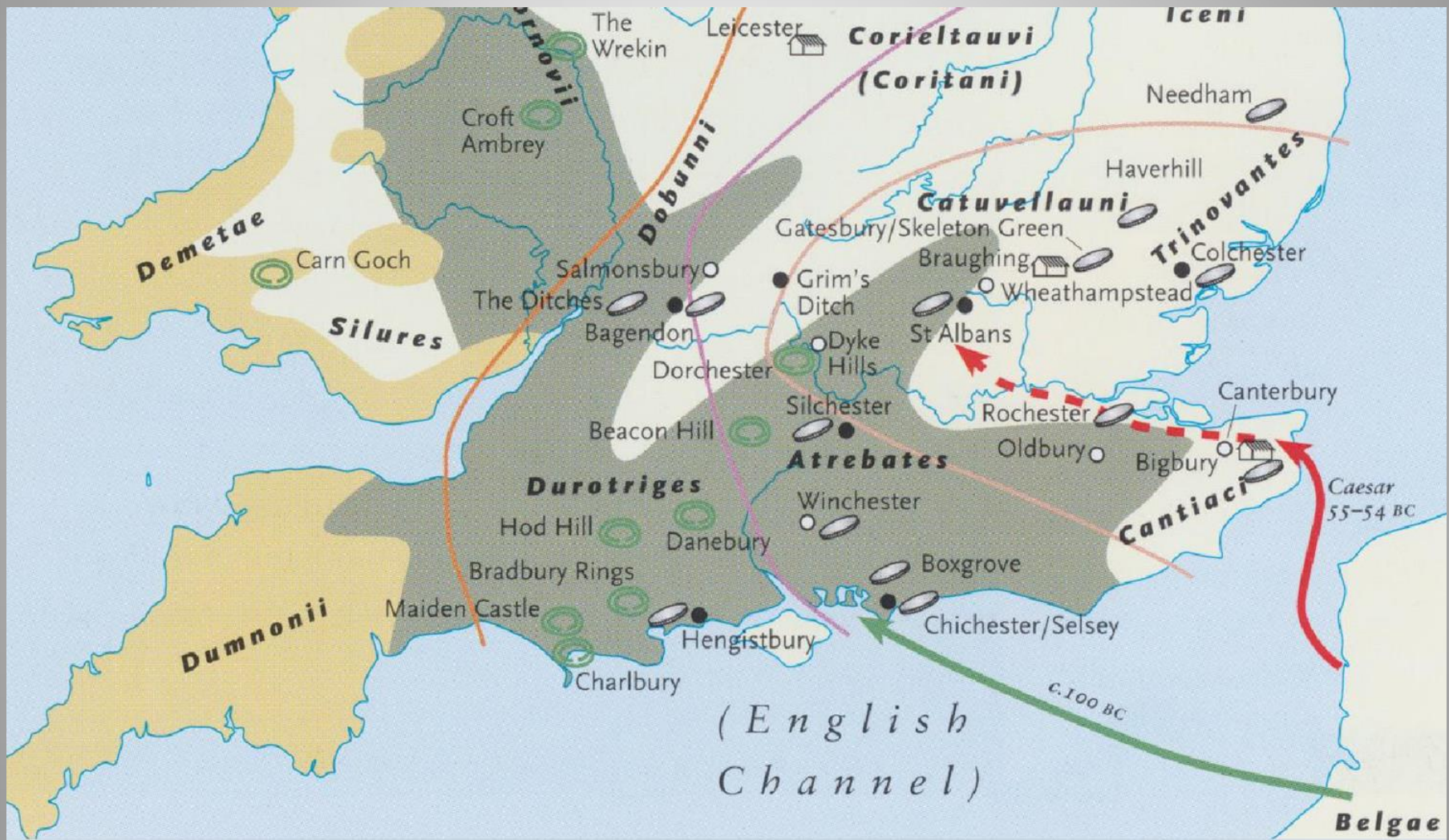
ABOVE: *Aerial view of Uffington Castle, an Iron Age hill fort, situated high on the Ridgeway, England's oldest road.*

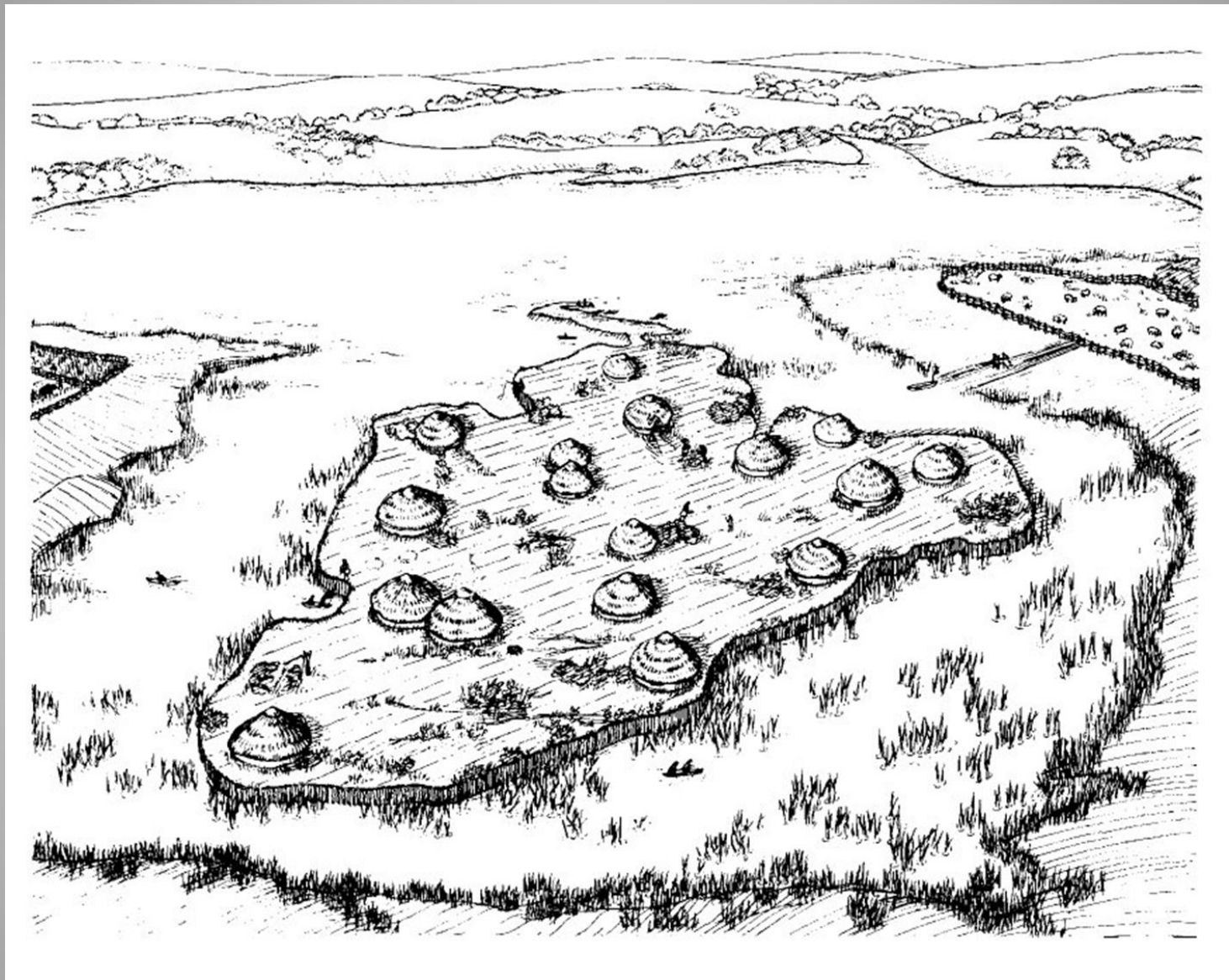






...the most enjoyable book of archaeology (and nature, and poetry, and literature, and art) I've read in years. .





Glastonbury lake village

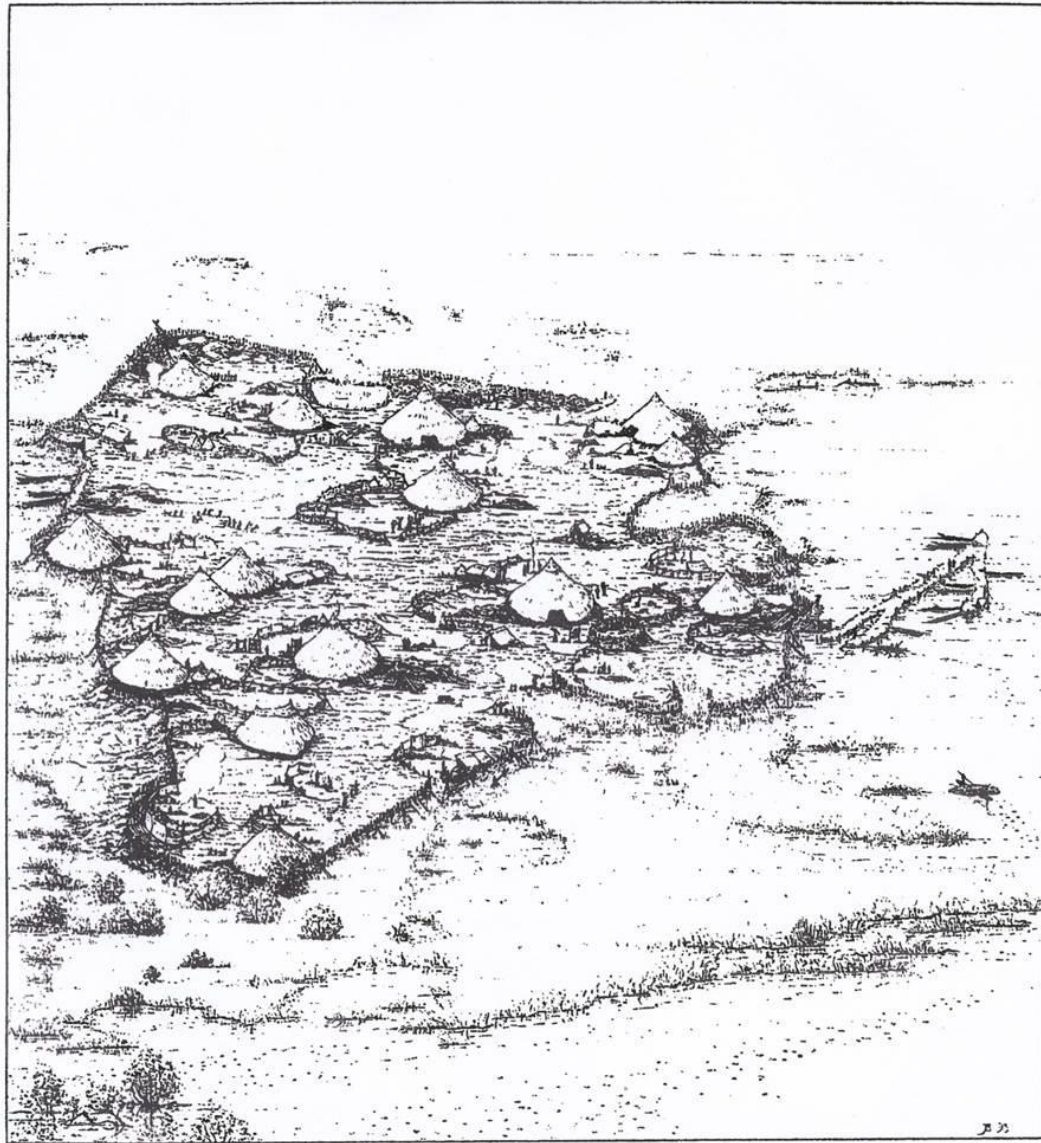


FIG 99 A bird's-eye view of Glastonbury 'lake village' at its maximum, around 125 BC (drawing by Jane Brayne).

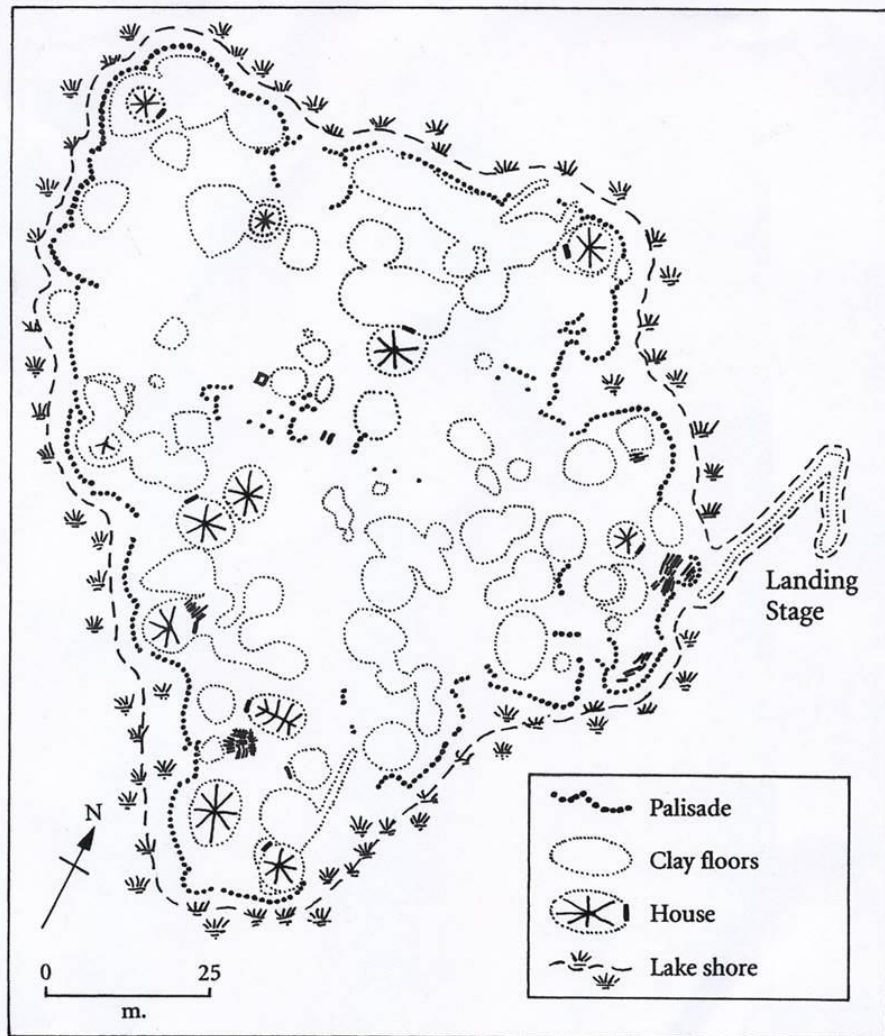


FIG 98 Ground plan of Glastonbury 'lake village' at its largest development in its late phase, about 125 BC. Roundhouses and one oval house are shown by the probable pattern of their roof rafters. The hook-shaped wooden structure to the east is a landing stage for boats.





FORSTNER



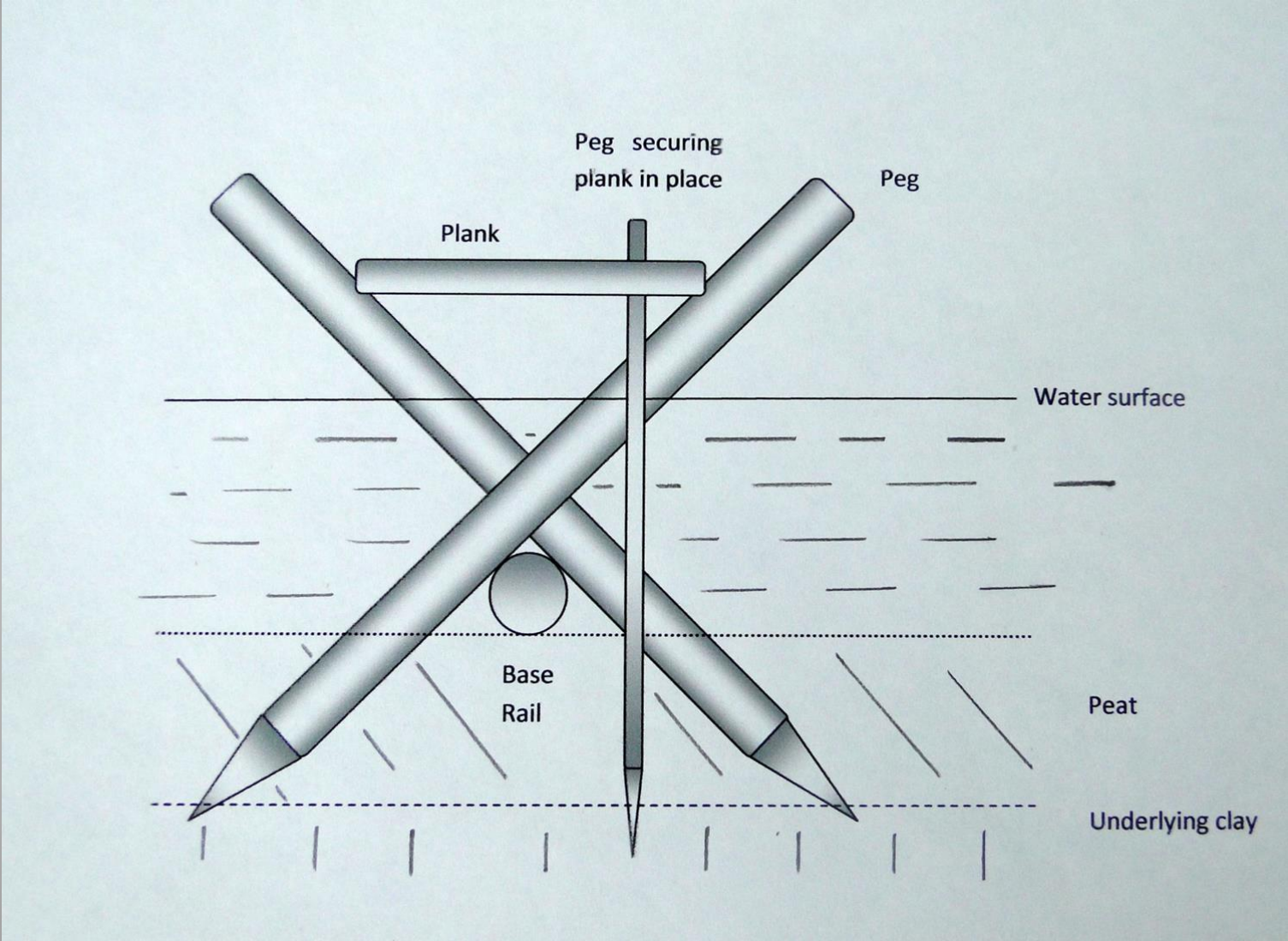


The Sweet Track, Glastonbury

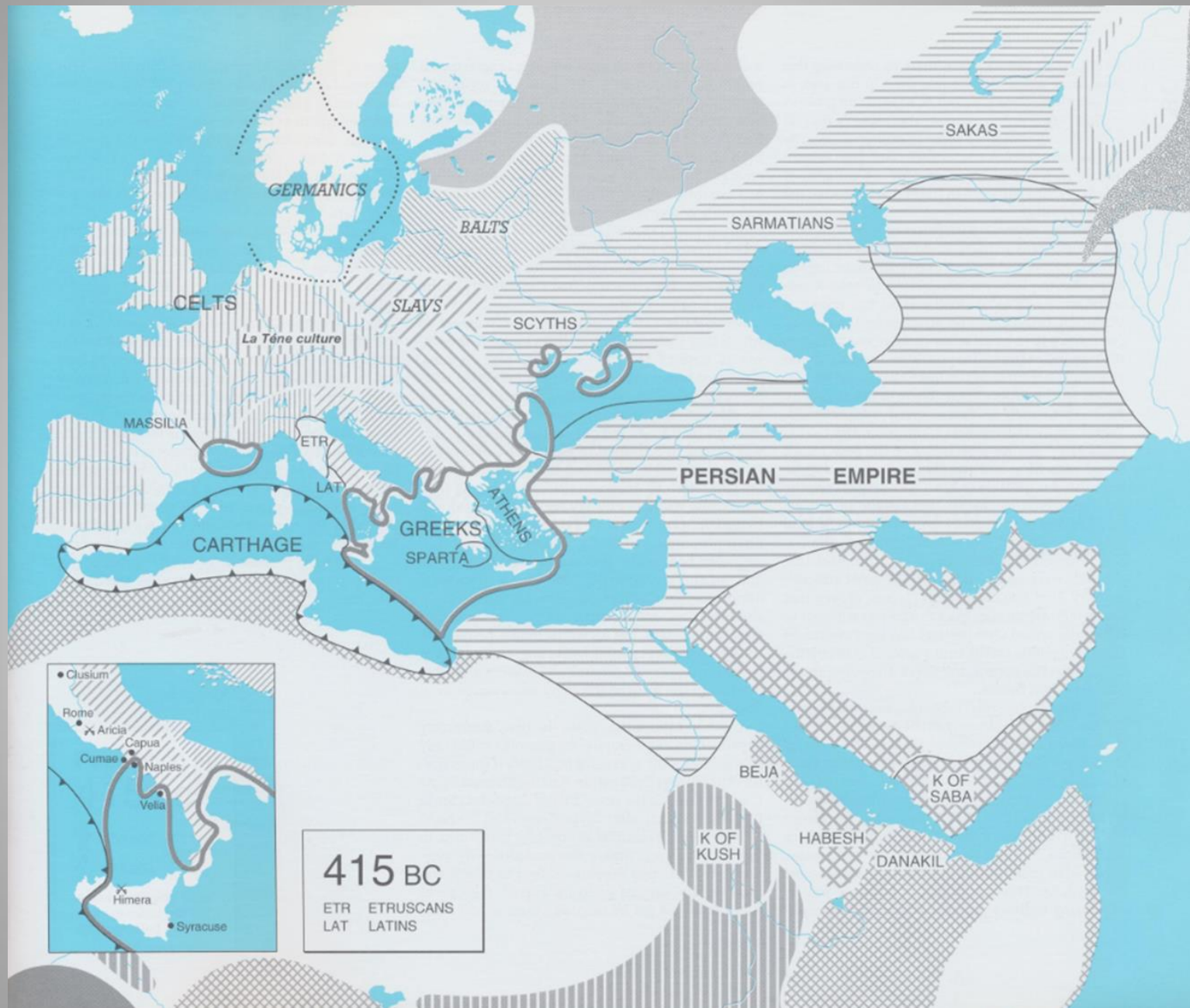
The Sweet Track, Glastonbury video

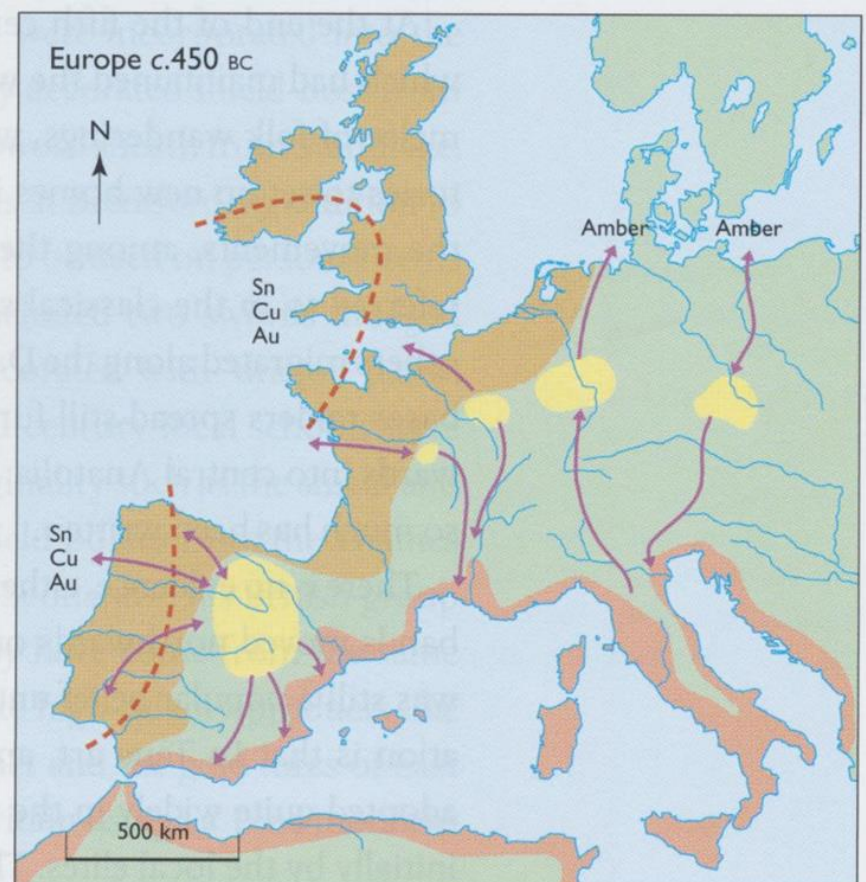
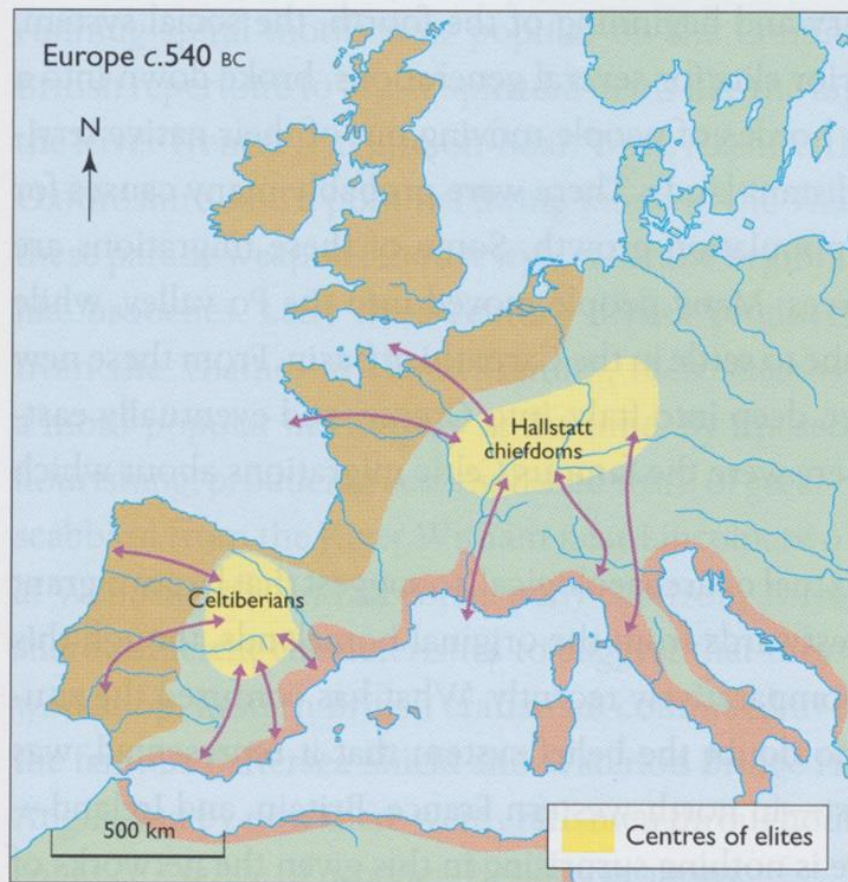








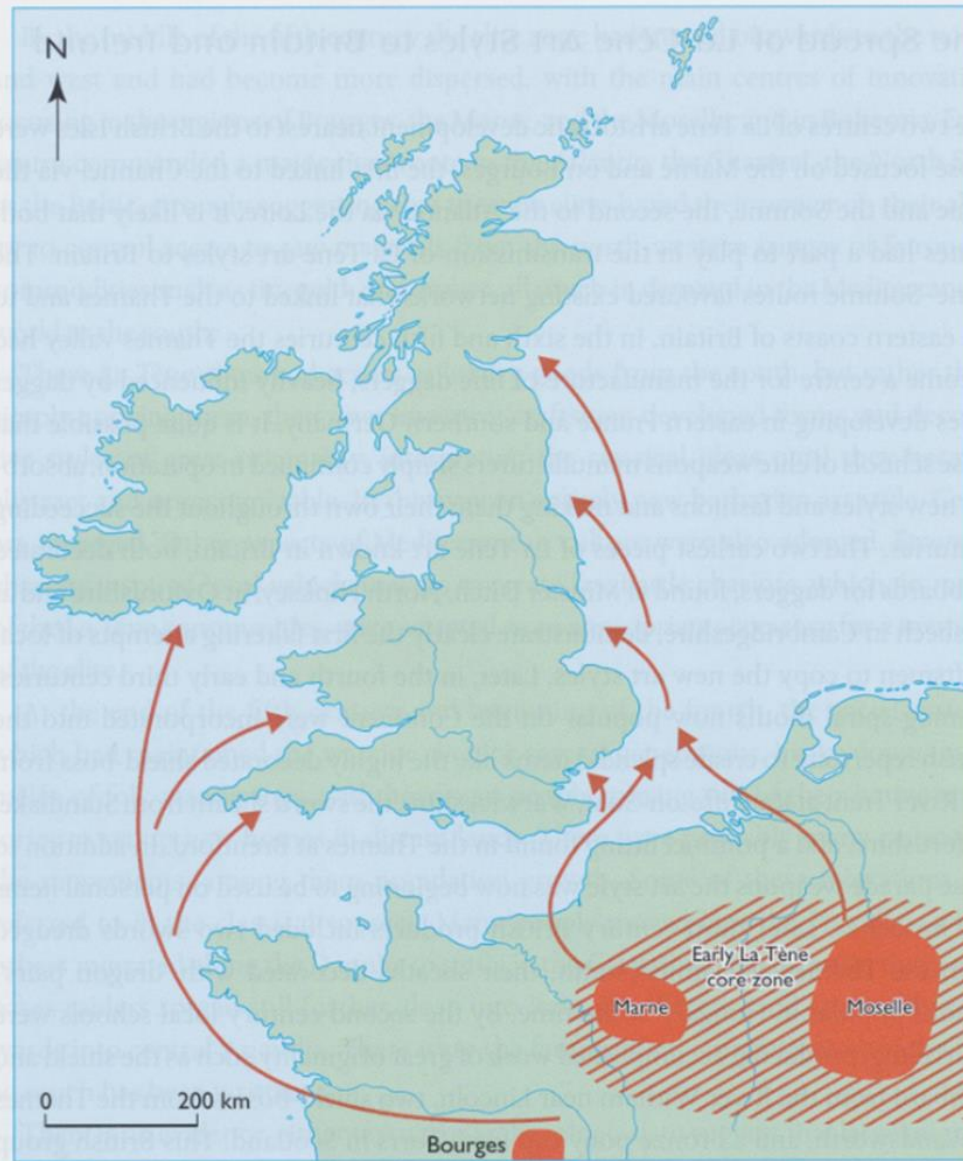




9.12 The acquisition of raw materials such as metals (tin, copper, and gold) and amber from the Atlantic and North Sea zones by the Mediterranean world led to the emergence of communities whose power lay in their ability to control the movement of goods. The two maps illustrate the elite centres in the sixth and fifth century. In the fifth century, while the Celtiberian centre continued to develop in Iberia, in the middle regions of Europe the old Hallstatt culture was replaced by new centres sharing the La Tène culture

Early La Tène period chieftain and warriors,
late 5th century BC





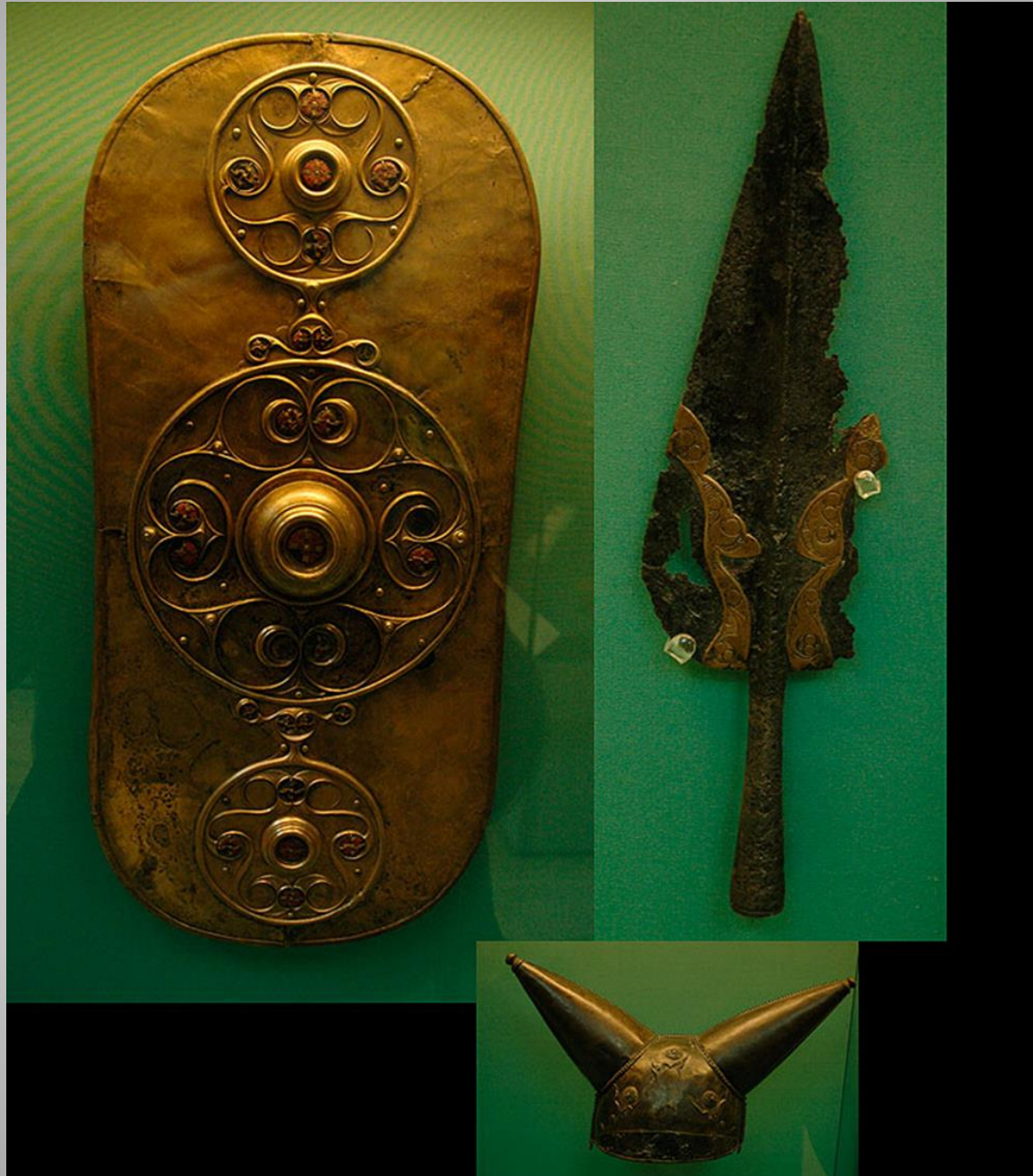
9.13 A highly original style of decoration, generally known as 'Celtic art', developed in the elite centres of Europe in the early La Tène period in the fifth to fourth century BC. Knowledge of the new art style spread to Britain and Ireland along the Atlantic and North Sea routes



9.16 Shield-boss from the Thames at Wandsworth. The superb repoussé decoration represents two birds with outstretched wings



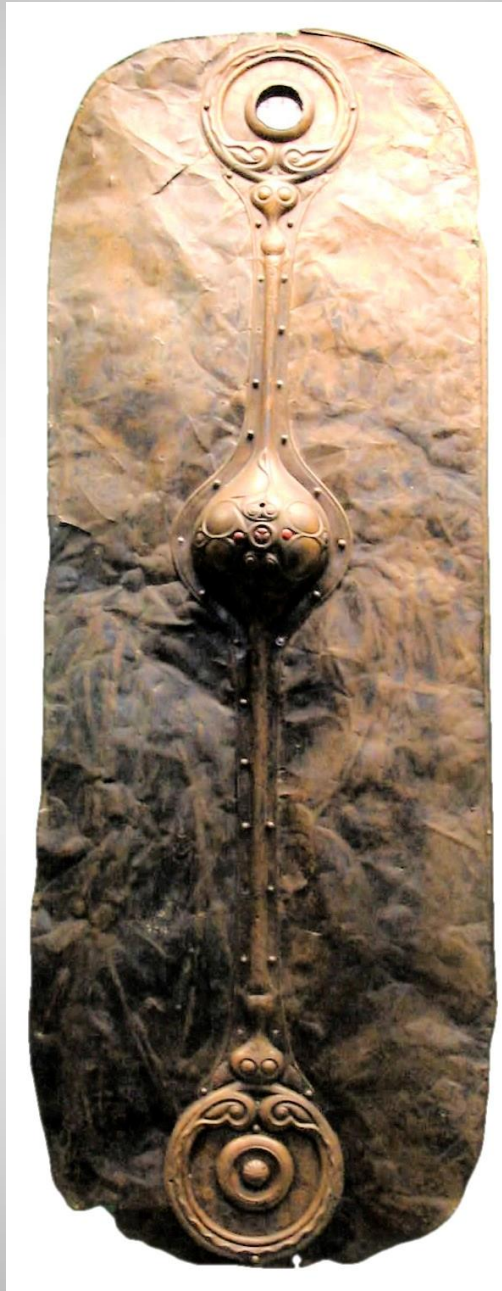




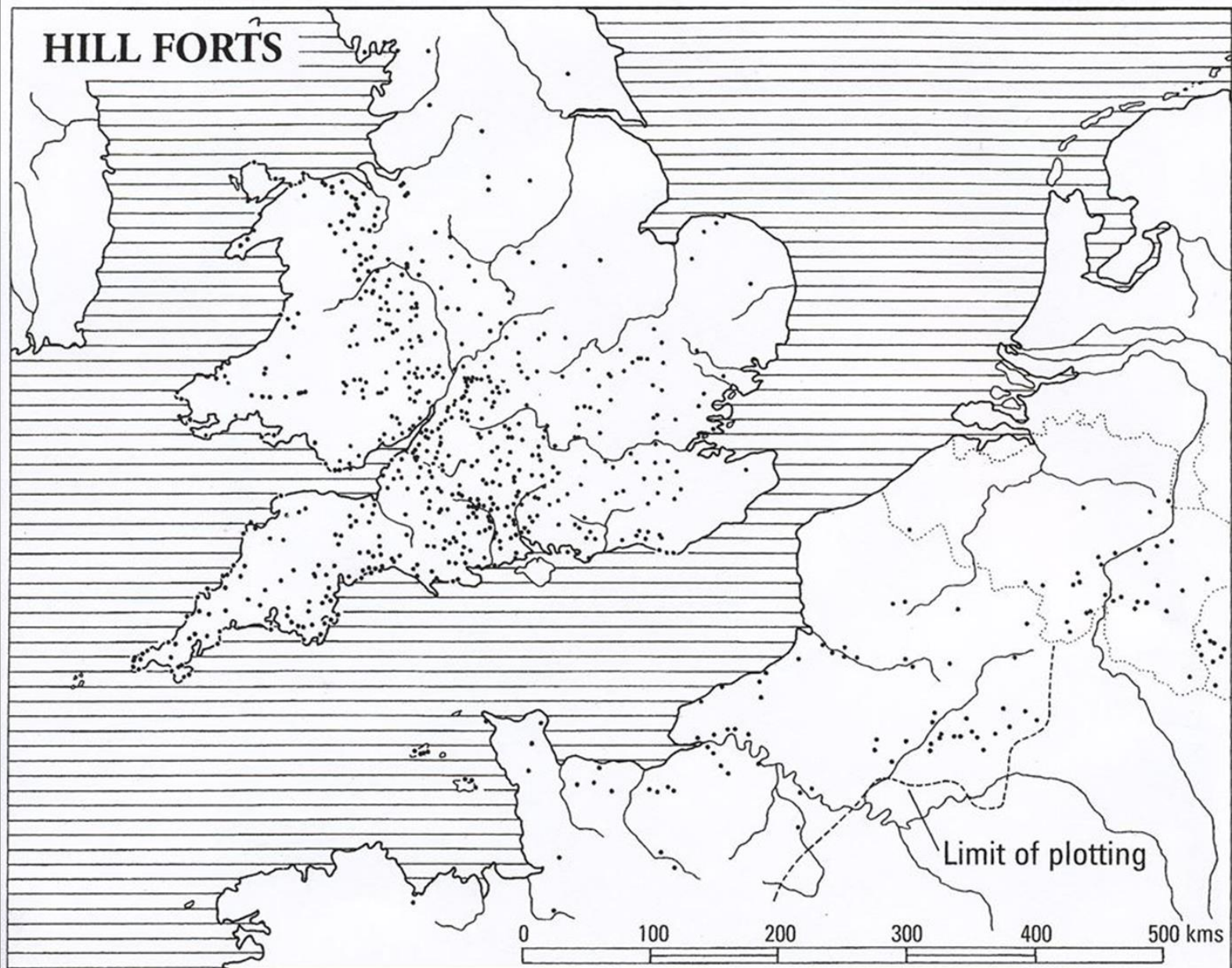


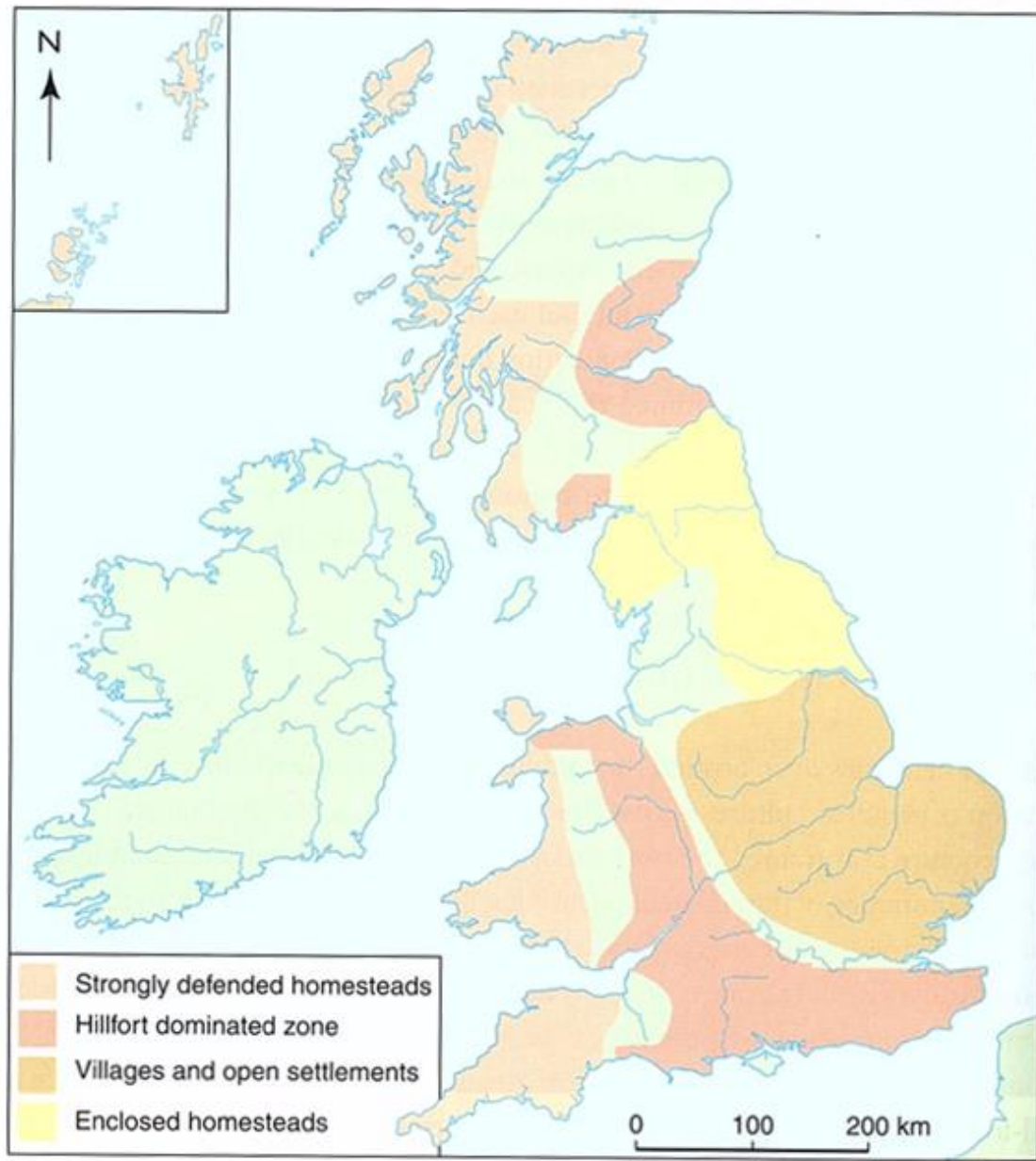






HILL FORTS





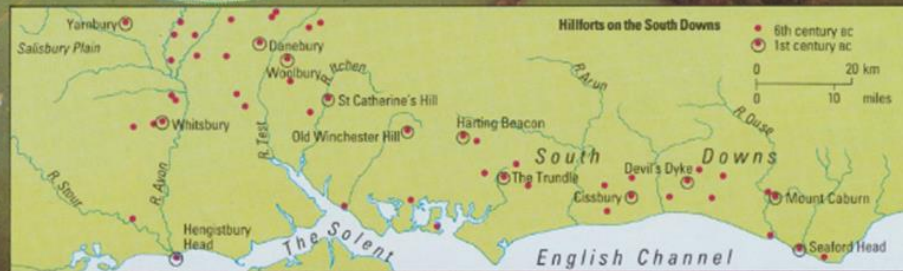
1.10 In Britain in the second half of the first millennium BC it is possible to trace different types of settlement pattern, suggesting broad zones in which the socio-economic systems were much the same. There is a marked contrast between the west of the country and the east

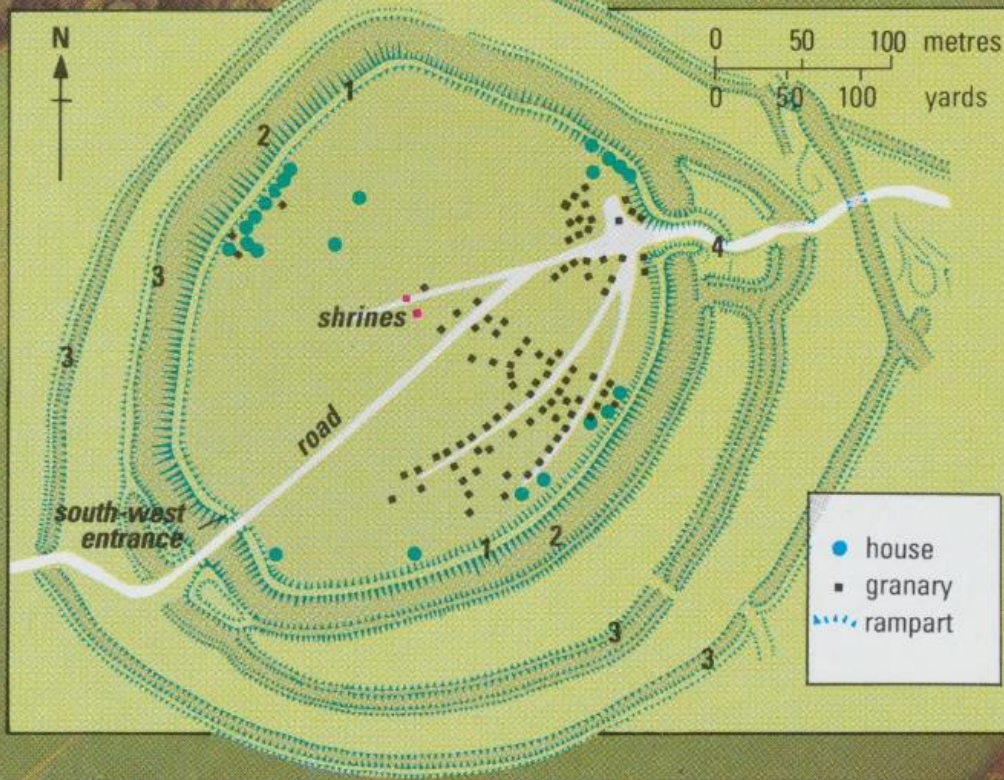


2 DANEBURY: A CELTIC HILLFORT

In southern Britain several hillforts were constructed on the South Downs in the 6th century bc (*map below*). Gradually power became centralised and fewer hillforts continued in occupation, though those that did, such as Danebury (*above*), were more heavily fortified. Within its ramparts was an area for livestock grazing, houses with thatched conical roofs and raised timber granaries. Around 100bc the occupation of Danebury came to a sudden end, probably as a result of hostilities; bodies were thrown into charnel pits and the east gate burned down.

1 Timber-framed rampart, c.550bc, fronted by a flat-bottomed ditch (2). **3 Middle and outer earthworks** (2nd century bc), enclosing 5.3 hectares. **4 East entrance**, probably with a timber platform or tower above. Slingstones were found along the entrance passage and over 1000 were stored in a pit nearby.



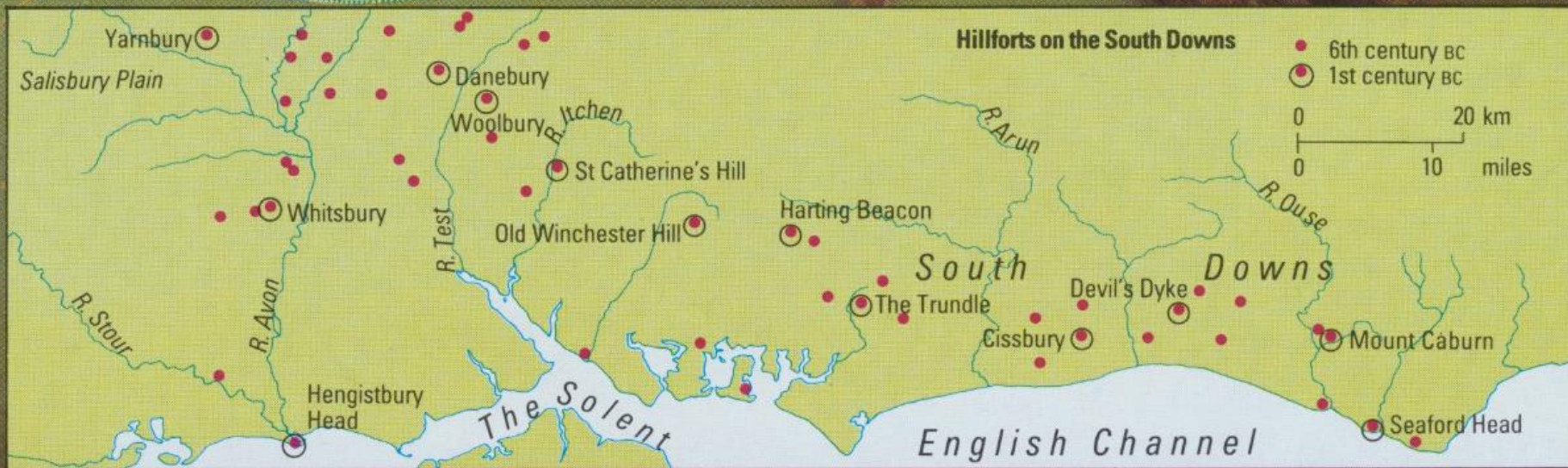


2 DANEBURY: A CELTIC HILLFORT

In southern Britain several hillforts were constructed on the South Downs in the 6th century BC (map below). Gradually power became centralised and fewer hillforts continued in occupation, though those that did, such as Danebury (above), were more heavily fortified. Within its ramparts was an area for livestock grazing, houses with thatched conical roofs and raised timber granaries. Around 100 BC the occupation of Danebury came to a sudden end, probably as a result of hostilities; bodies were thrown into charnel pits and the east gate burned down.

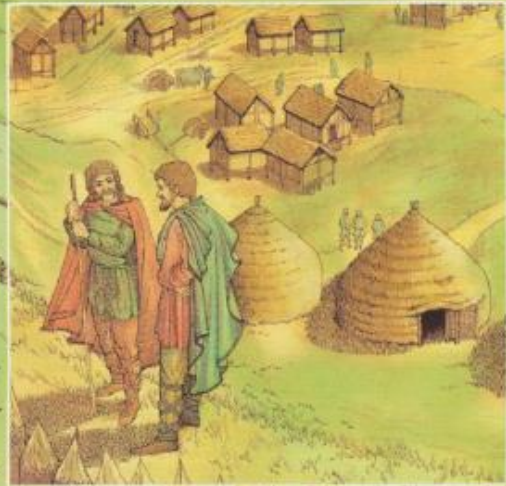
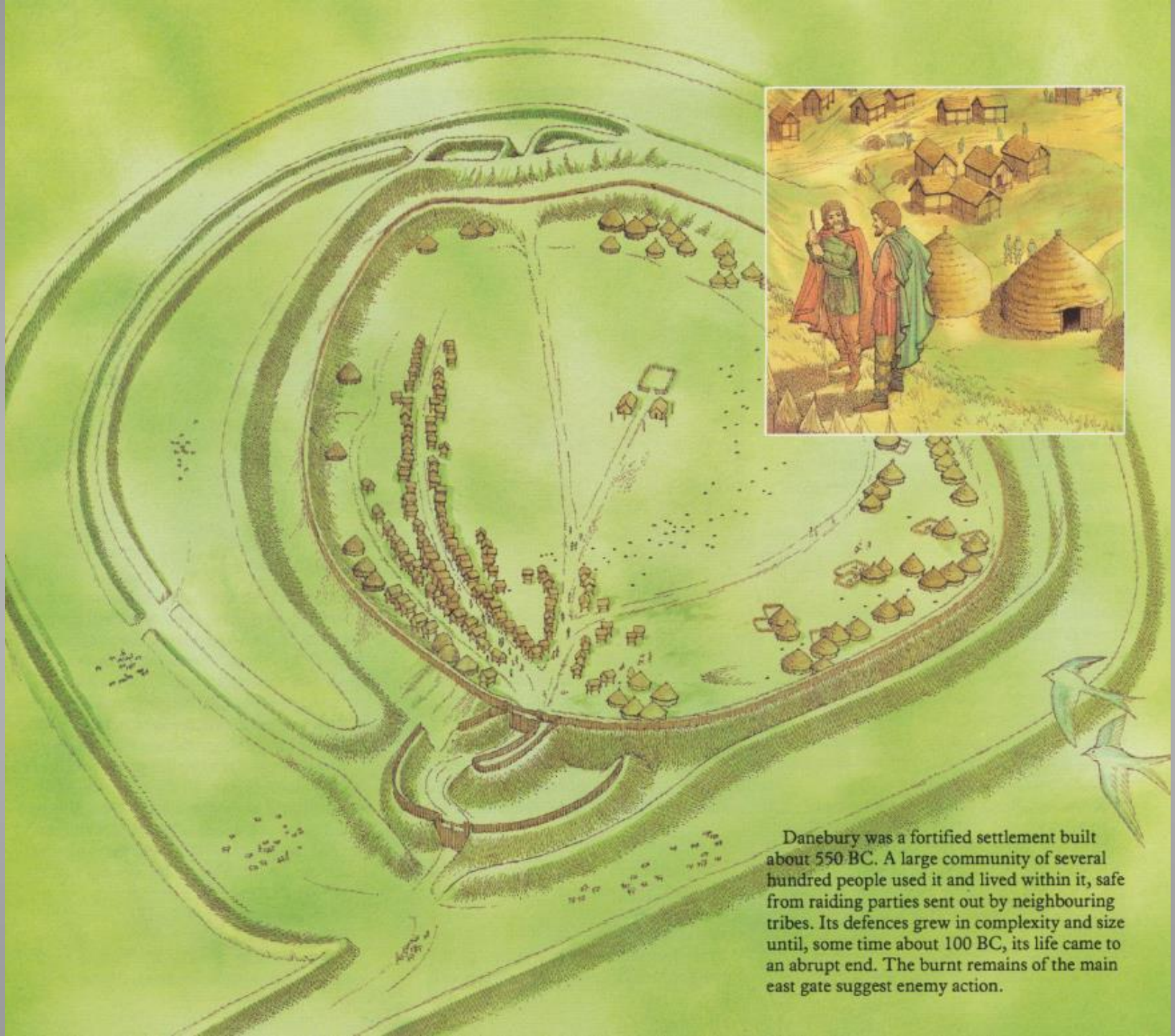
1 Timber-framed rampart, c.550 BC, fronted by a flat-bottomed ditch (2). **3 Middle and outer earthworks** (2nd century BC), enclosing 5.3 hectares. **4 East entrance**, probably with a timber platform or tower above. Slingstones were found along the entrance passage and over 1000 were stored in a pit nearby.

- house
- granary
- ▬ rampart



Danebury Hillfort video

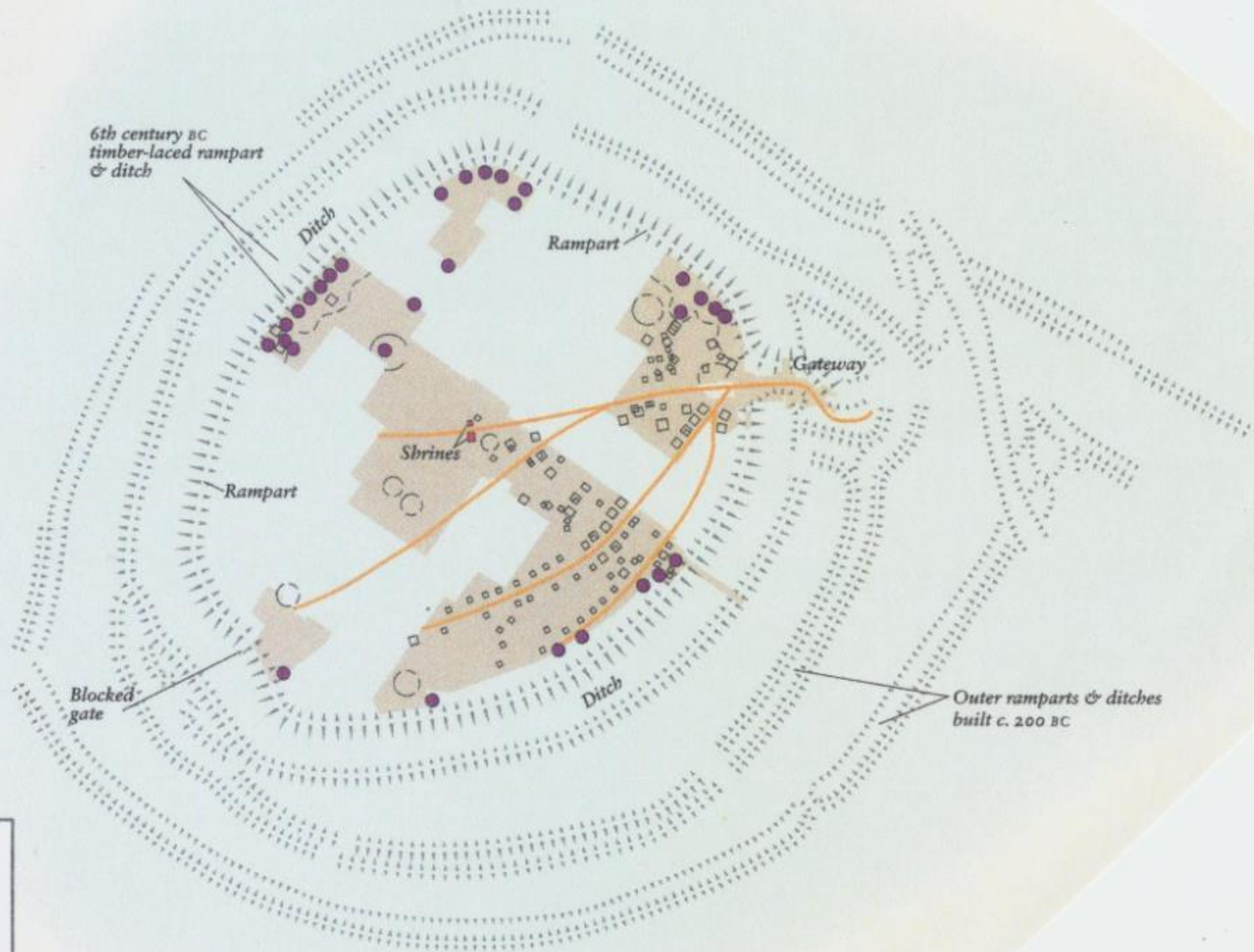










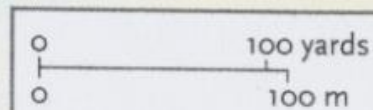
Danebury was a fortified settlement built about 550 BC. A large community of several hundred people used it and lived within it, safe from raiding parties sent out by neighbouring tribes. Its defences grew in complexity and size until, some time about 100 BC, its life came to an abrupt end. The burnt remains of the main east gate suggest enemy action.



Danebury excavations

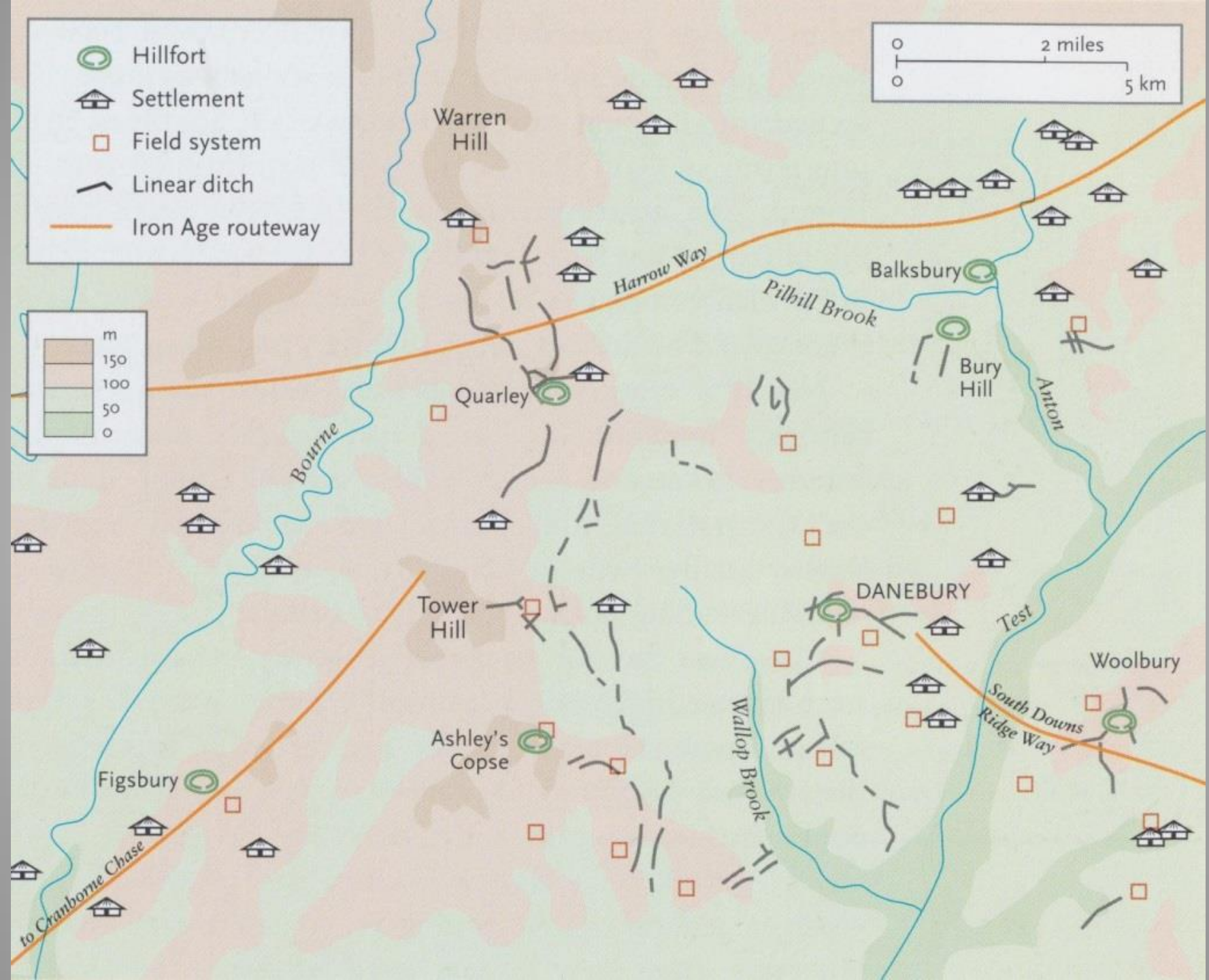
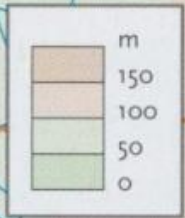
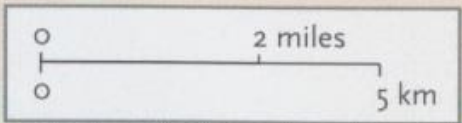
The inhabitants of the fort lived in circular huts, built close to the ramparts for shelter. The inner zone was occupied by granaries and storage pits and at the centre of the fort were four square structures identified as shrines.



-  Excavated area
-  Road
-  Granary
-  House
-  Gully
-  Edge of quarry



-  Hillfort
-  Settlement
-  Field system
-  Linear ditch
-  Iron Age routeway







Iron Age society

The Chieftain



The Nobles

The Druids



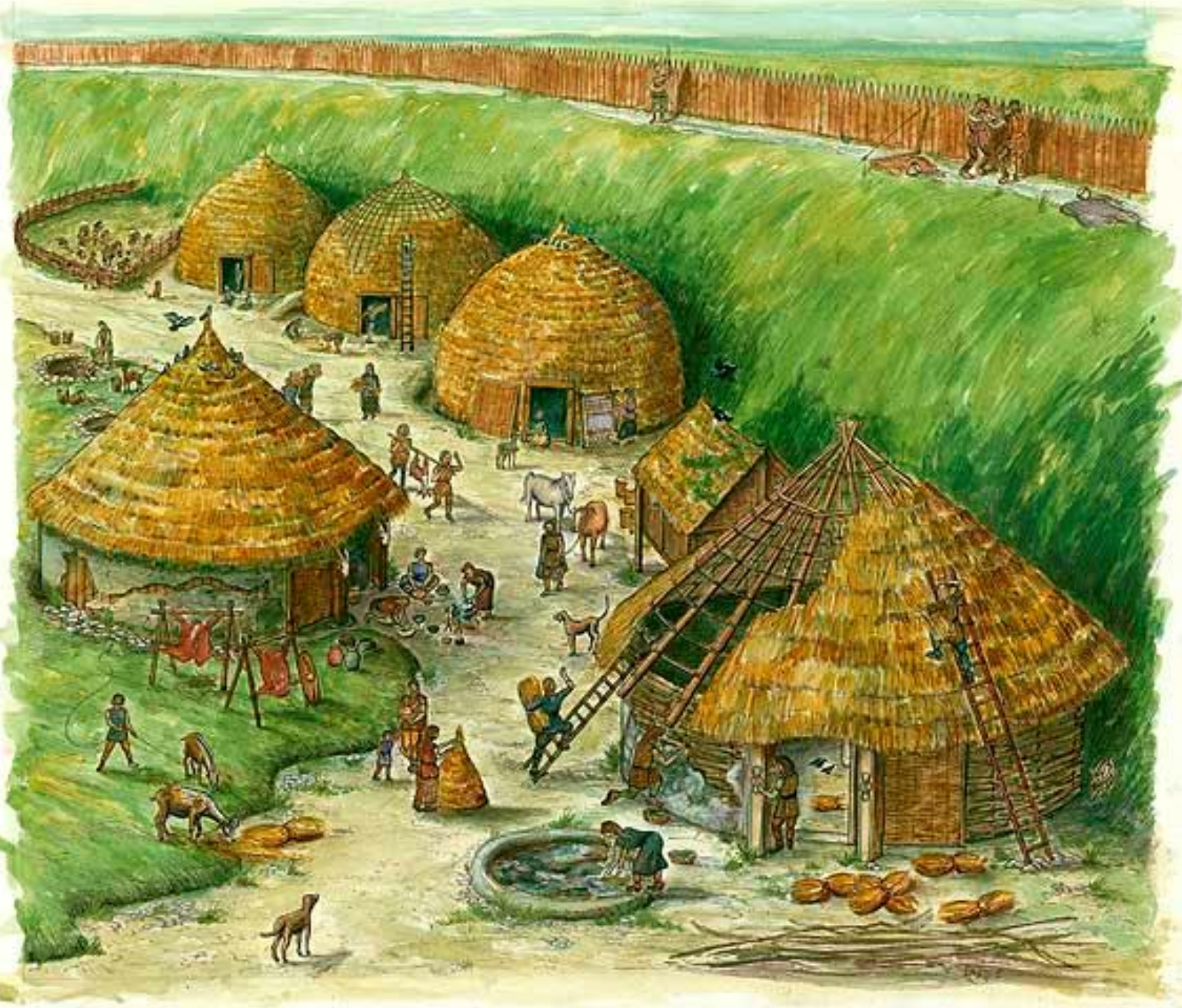
The Craftsmen



The Peasant Farmers





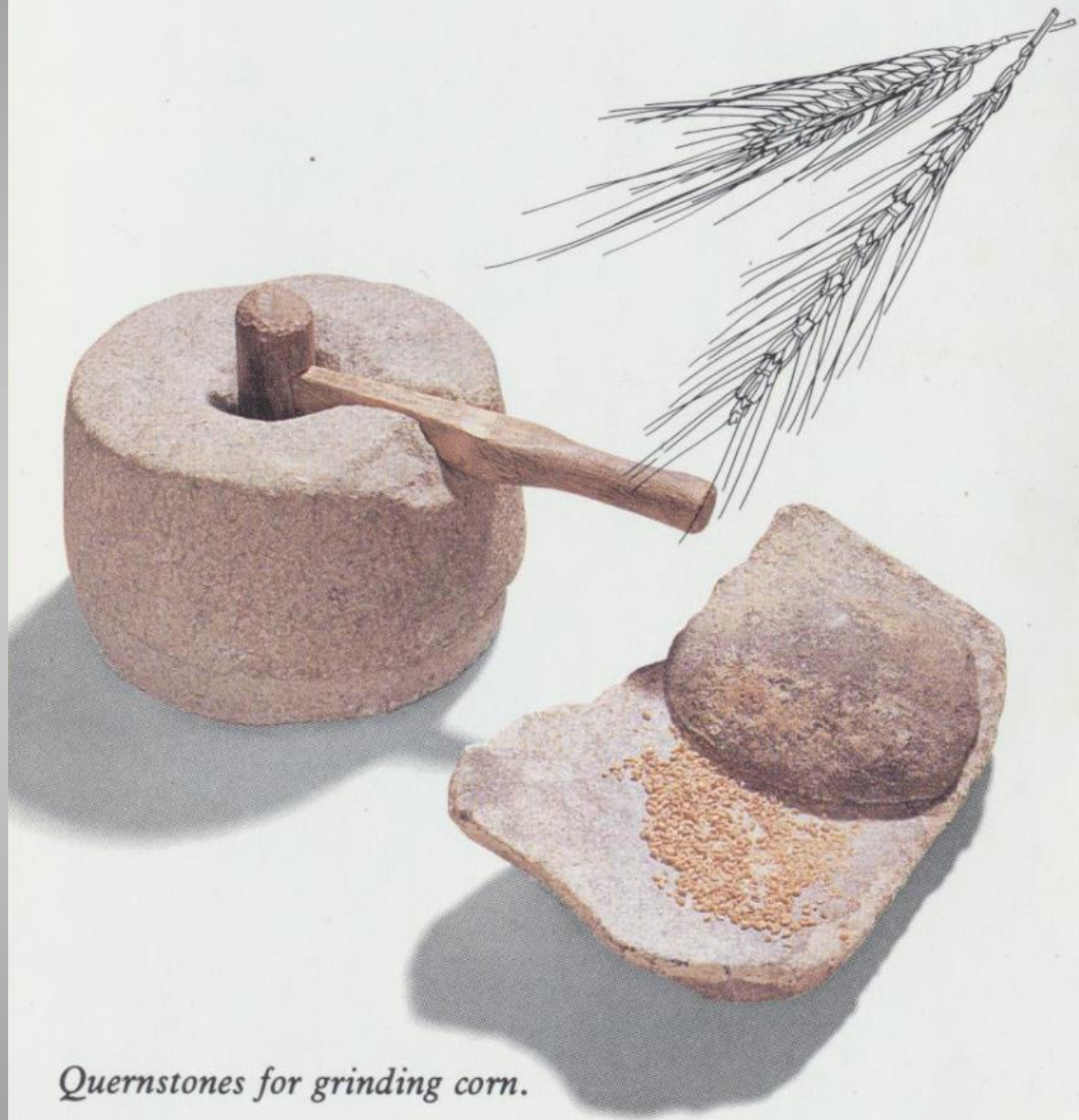




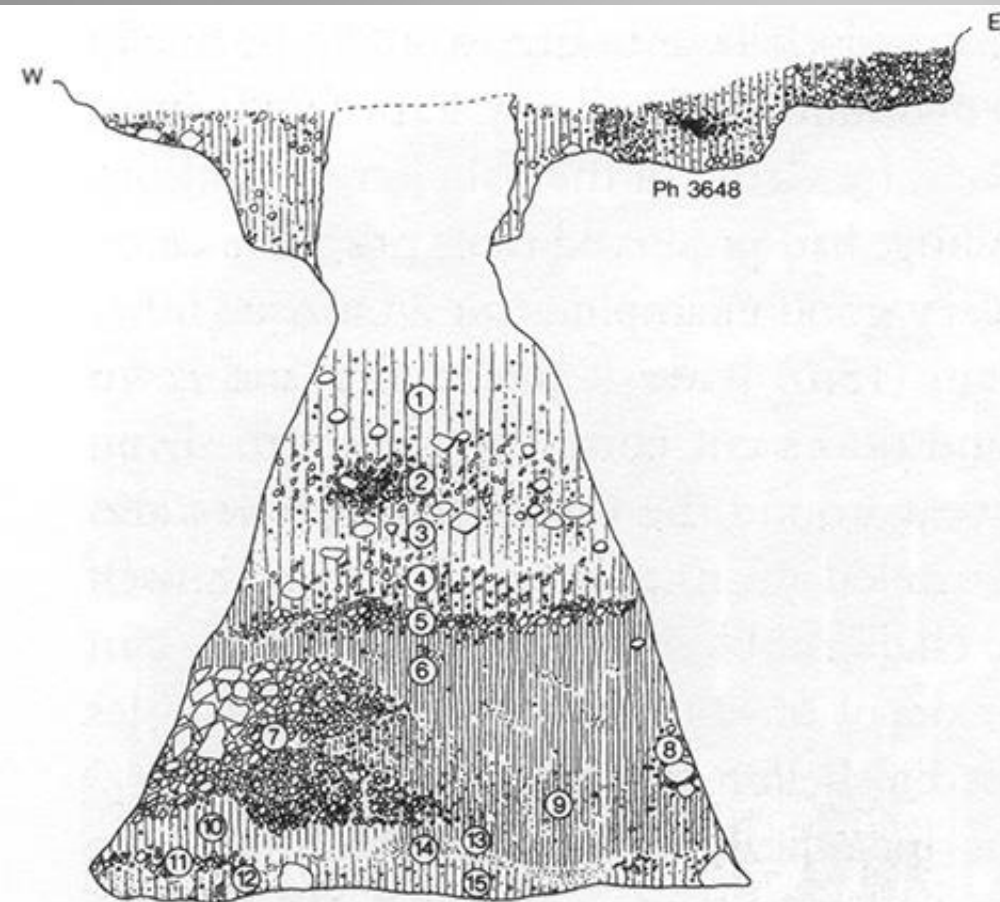
FRASCA

FRASCA (FRASCARE) - Vaso di terracotta
rotondo, con collo corto e bocca
allargata, con decorazione a
linee ondulate. È un tipo di
vaso molto comune, usato
per contenere liquidi.
È presente in molte
culture antiche.

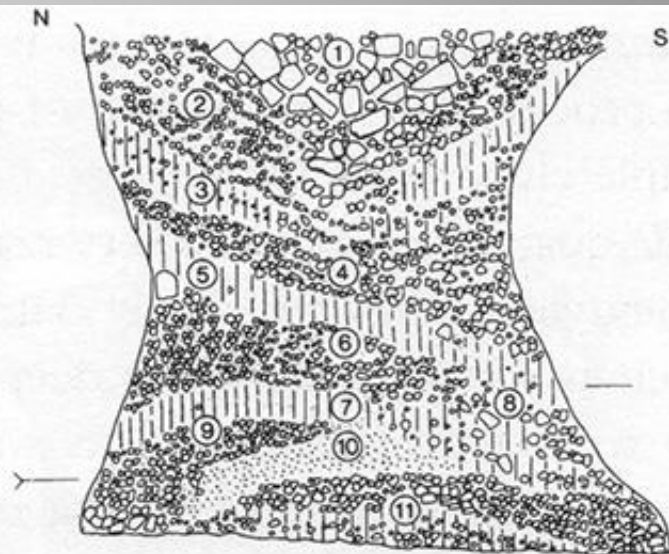
FRASCA (FRASCARE) - Vaso di terracotta
rotondo, con collo corto e bocca
allargata, con decorazione a
linee ondulate. È un tipo di
vaso molto comune, usato
per contenere liquidi.
È presente in molte
culture antiche.



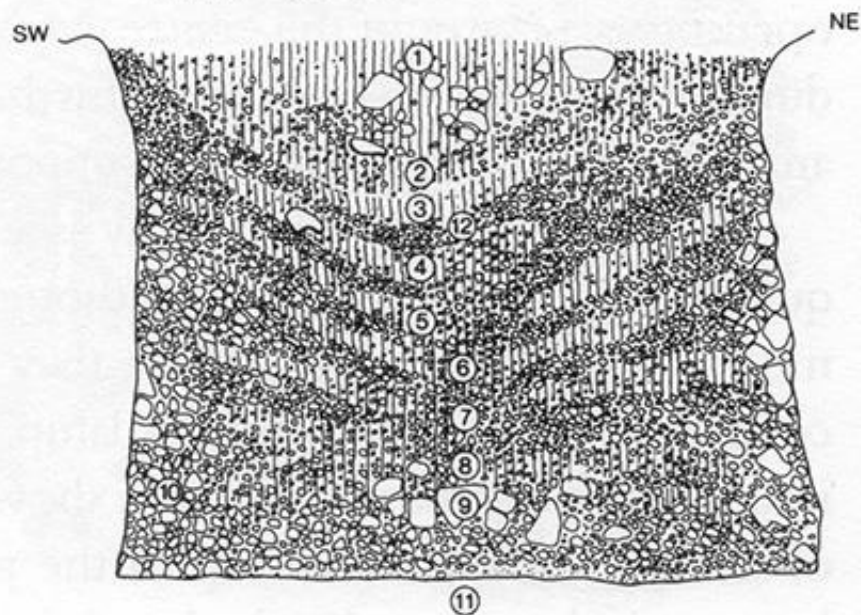
Quernstones for grinding corn.



PIT 1115 Q 094830



PIT 171 H 769428



PIT 932 P 859715





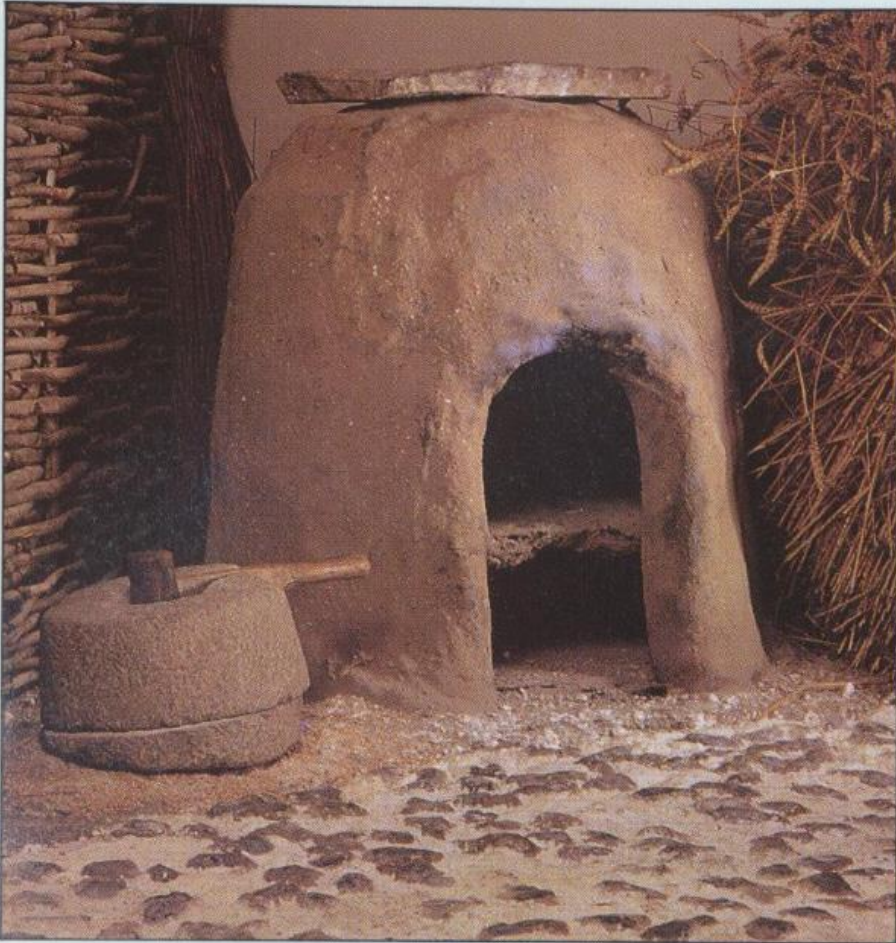
10.5 One of the ways of disposing of the dead in southern Britain in the fourth to second century BC was to place the tightly bound body bundles at the bottom of abandoned storage pits, as here at Danebury





10.4 Animal offerings were often placed in the Danebury pits after the corn had been removed. Combinations of horse and dog, as in this case, where a complete dog was accompanied by a horse leg, were common, suggesting that these animals in some way were thought to possess special powers

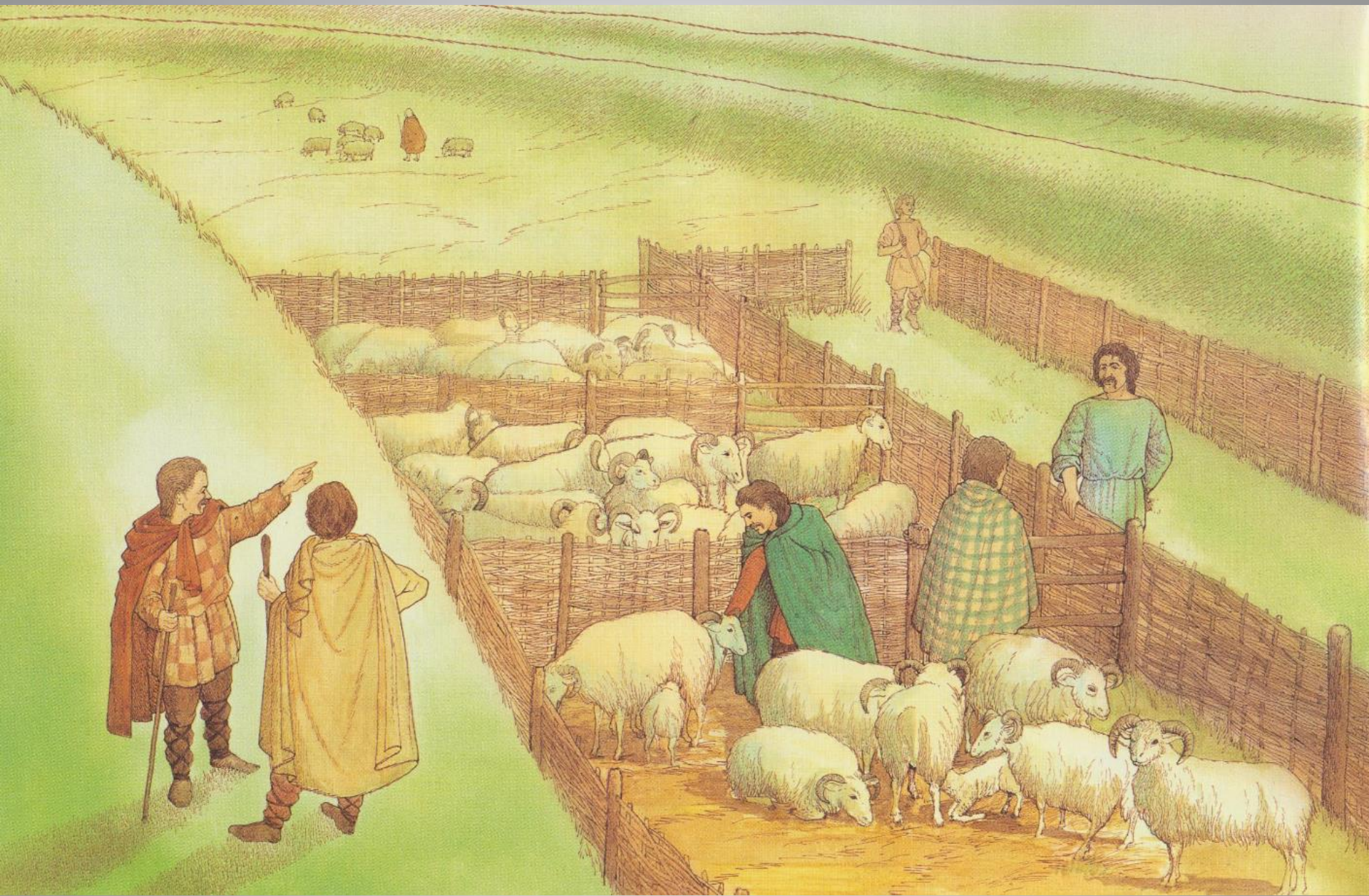




Daily Bread

Although, as we shall see, a range of farmyard animals was kept in the Iron Age, and feasting on meat is often referred to in contemporary writings about the Celts, the bulk of the everyday diet was based on the two staple cereals wheat and barley.

Every day a quantity would be taken from store and ground to flour on hand mills (querns). Large numbers of these, mostly broken or worn examples, have been found in the excavation. Bread was baked in permanent clay-built ovens either inside the houses or in working areas outside. These thick-walled ovens retained their heat and were very efficient for cooking a variety of food.

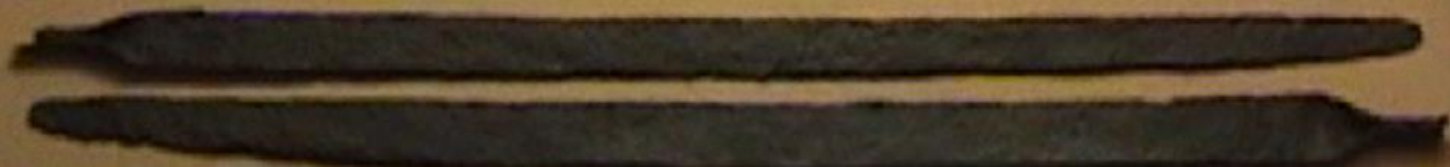






IRON

Iron was usually traded in the form of
ingots or bars (sometimes called "nuggets" or
"lumps") and was used for a variety of
purposes. The most common use was for
making tools and weapons. Iron was
also used for making jewelry and
ornaments. The process of smelting iron
was a major technological achievement
of the Iron Age.





Weaving loom

Weaving

The chalkland of Wessex was ideally suited for sheep-rearing, for unlike cattle, sheep can exist for long periods without water and they thrive on the dry springy downland turf. As more of the upland was brought under cultivation to feed the growing population, the flocks were probably increased in size to fertilize the new fields with their manure.



Weaving combs

A by-product of the extensive flocks was wool. It was probably plucked from the sheep during the moulting season and spun into yarn, then woven on upright looms into lengths of cloth. Sheep and weaving equipment were so numerous and common on Iron Age sites that woollen fabrics were probably produced in surplus for trade and exchange.



Soay sheep of iron age type, at Butser farm

The main weapon of defence was the sling. A sling could be quickly and cheaply made from leather and the ammunition, rounded pebbles 3–4 cm in diameter, could be found in quantity in the valleys nearby. In the hands of a skilled man a sling could be deadly and the rain of missiles created by a group of slingers would have been a major deterrent to would-be attackers. Thousands of sling stones were found during the excavation particularly near the entrance. In one pit an ammunition dump of 11,000 sling stones was uncovered.



THE DEFENCES

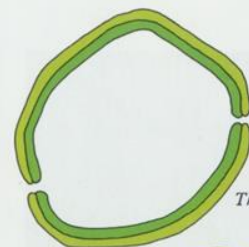
The earthworks

The most impressive aspect of Danebury now is its massive earthwork defences built to keep the community safe. Even in their eroded and tree-covered state these banks and ditches are very difficult to scale. Imagine them fresher and steeper lined with defenders hurling missiles – the fort must have been virtually impregnable.

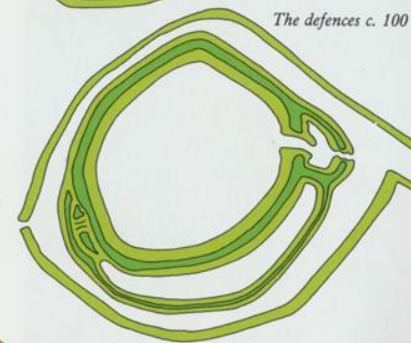
Our cutting through the main rampart and ditch, in 1969, exposed the sequence of defences. To begin with the rampart was built of box-like timber-work packed with chalk rubble and backed by a rampart of chalk and soil. There was a berm to keep the front posts steady and a ditch. This system did not last for very long. The vertical timbers would have rotted at the base and in places the revetment must have given away. Eventually, about 400 BC, in a period of major reorganization the system was reconstructed.

The ditch was dug to a deep V-shape, the rampart was heightened and its front cut to a sloping face continuing that of the ditch. On the crest a breast-work in the form of a flint wall was built. From the bottom of the ditch to the top of the rampart was a steep slope of about 17 m – taller than the average modern house!

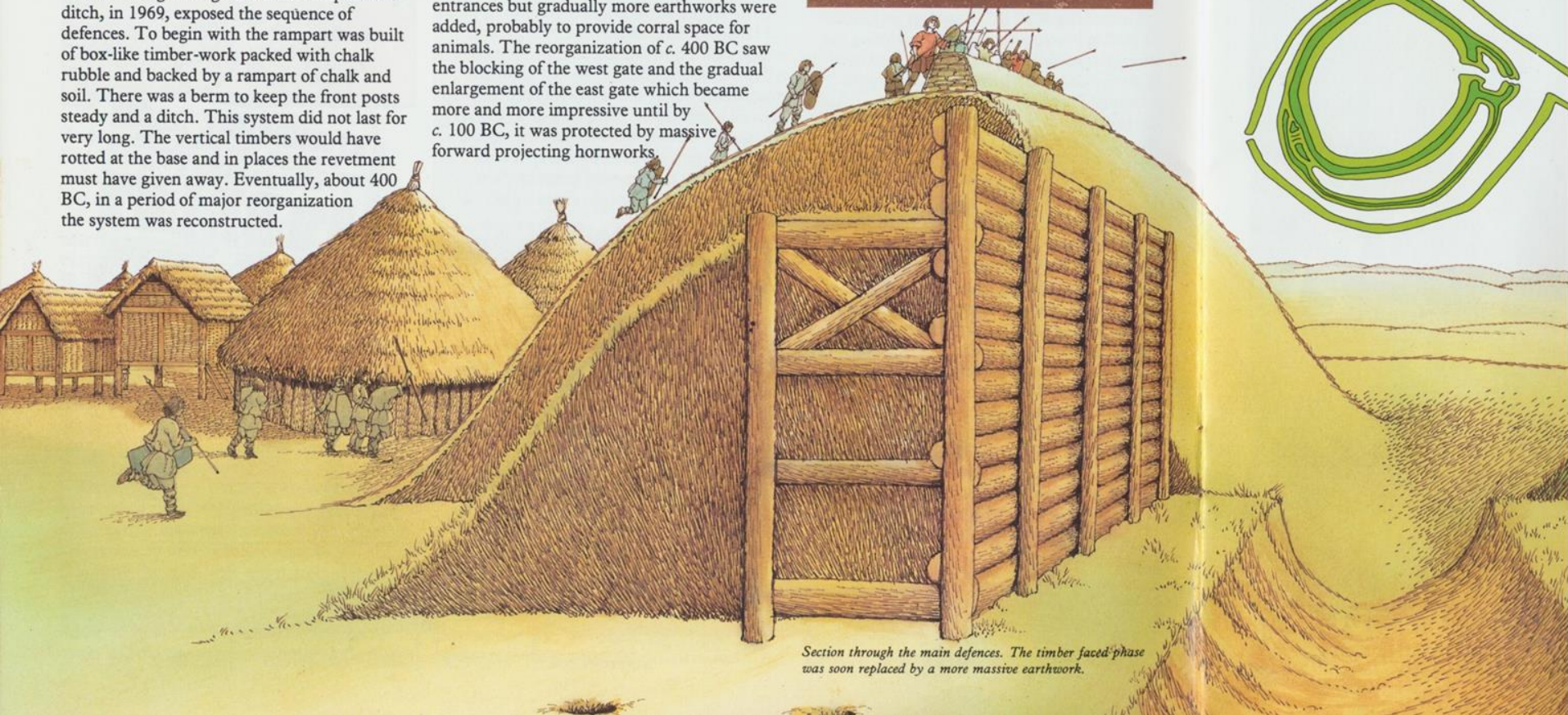
The early fort (with the timber-faced rampart) was roughly circular in plan with two entrances but gradually more earthworks were added, probably to provide corral space for animals. The reorganization of c. 400 BC saw the blocking of the west gate and the gradual enlargement of the east gate which became more and more impressive until by c. 100 BC, it was protected by massive forward projecting hornworks.



The defences c. 550 BC



The defences c. 100 BC

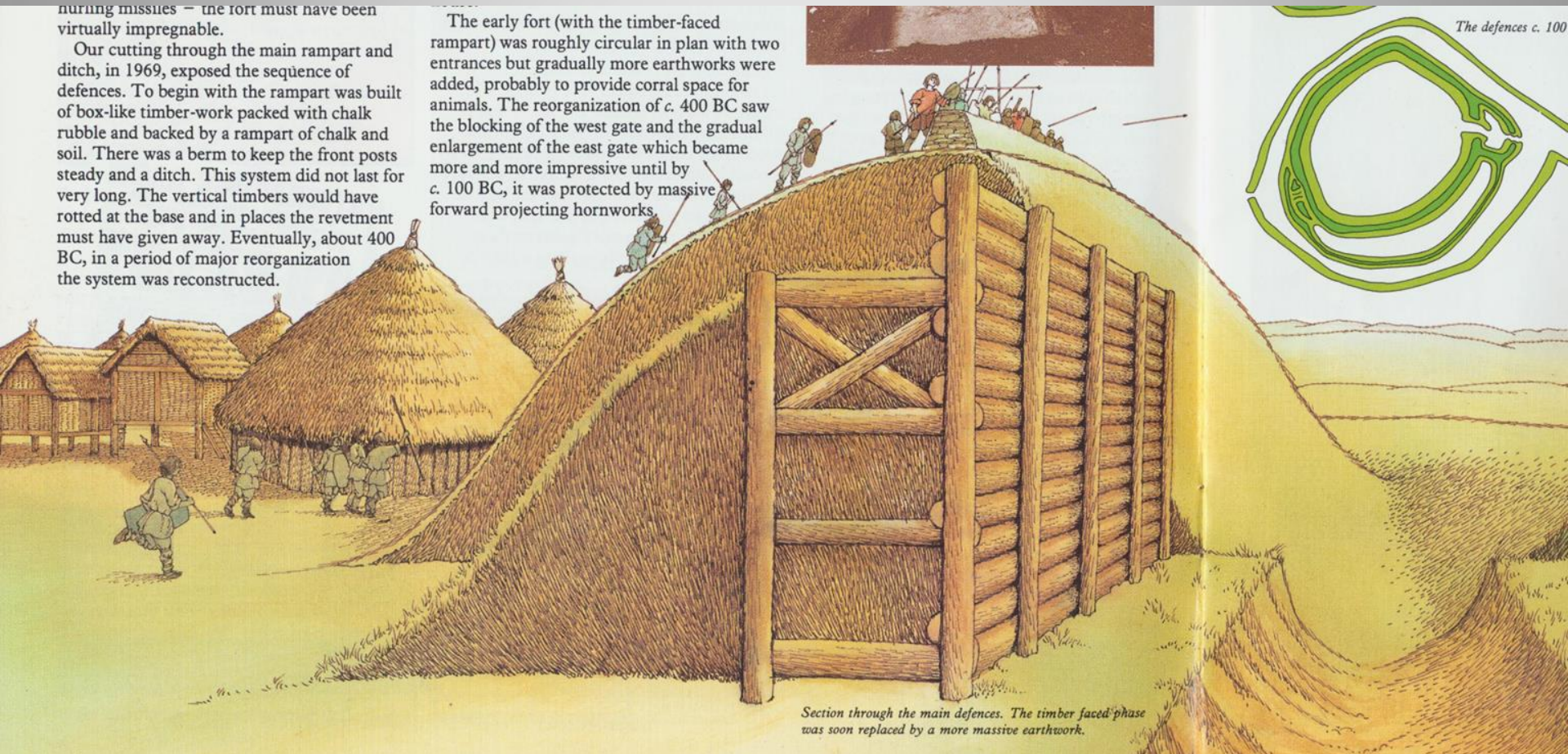


Section through the main defences. The timber faced phase was soon replaced by a more massive earthwork.

nuring missiles – the fort must have been virtually impregnable.

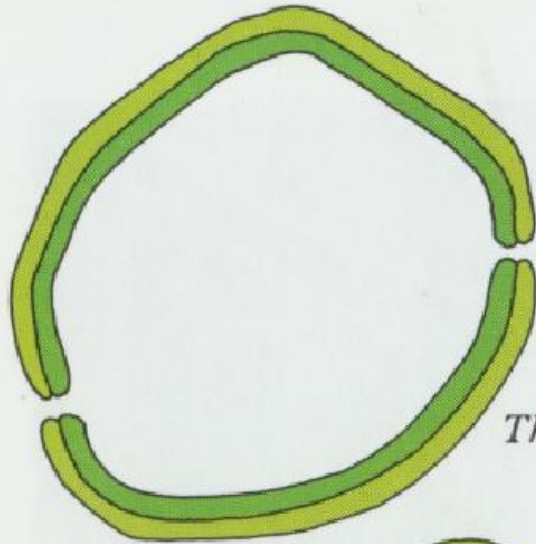
Our cutting through the main rampart and ditch, in 1969, exposed the sequence of defences. To begin with the rampart was built of box-like timber-work packed with chalk rubble and backed by a rampart of chalk and soil. There was a berm to keep the front posts steady and a ditch. This system did not last for very long. The vertical timbers would have rotted at the base and in places the revetment must have given away. Eventually, about 400 BC, in a period of major reorganization the system was reconstructed.

The early fort (with the timber-faced rampart) was roughly circular in plan with two entrances but gradually more earthworks were added, probably to provide corral space for animals. The reorganization of c. 400 BC saw the blocking of the west gate and the gradual enlargement of the east gate which became more and more impressive until by c. 100 BC, it was protected by massive forward projecting hornworks.

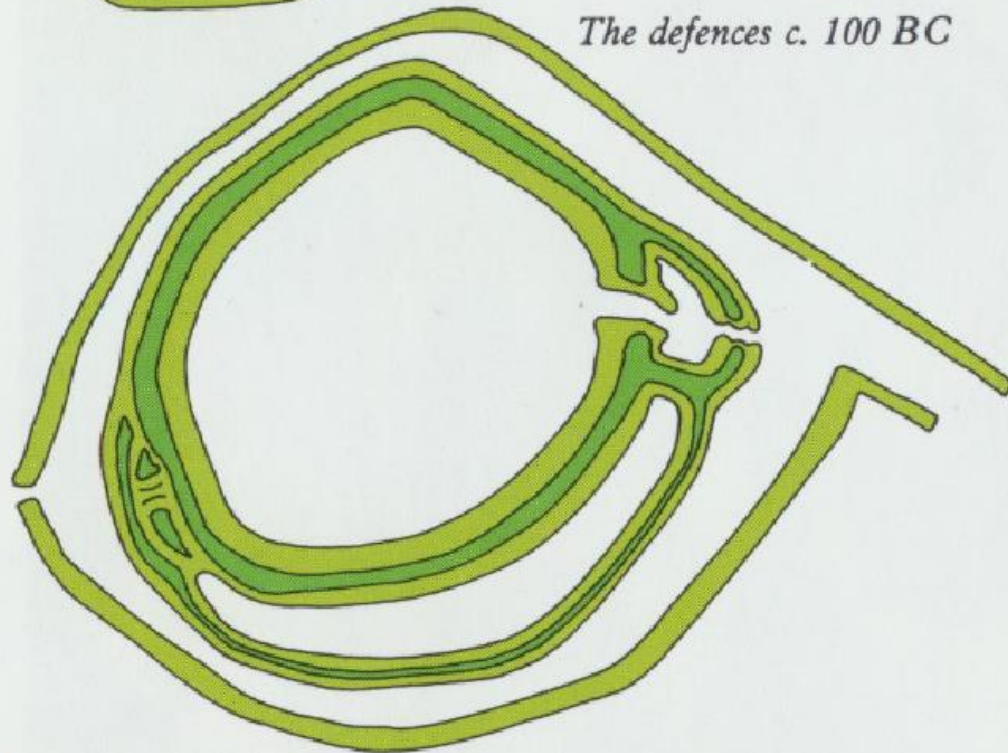


Section through the main defences. The timber faced phase was soon replaced by a more massive earthwork.

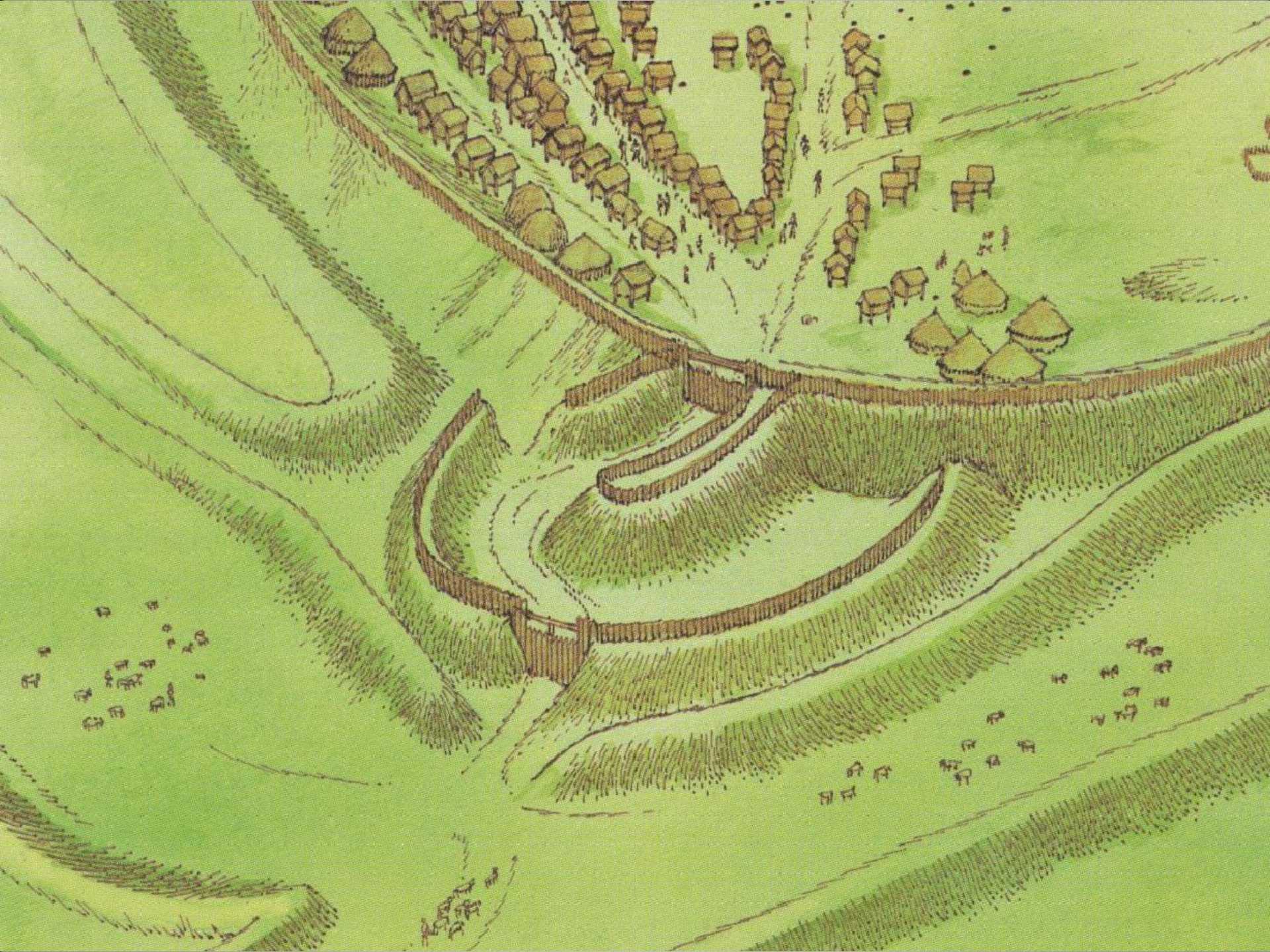
The defences c. 100

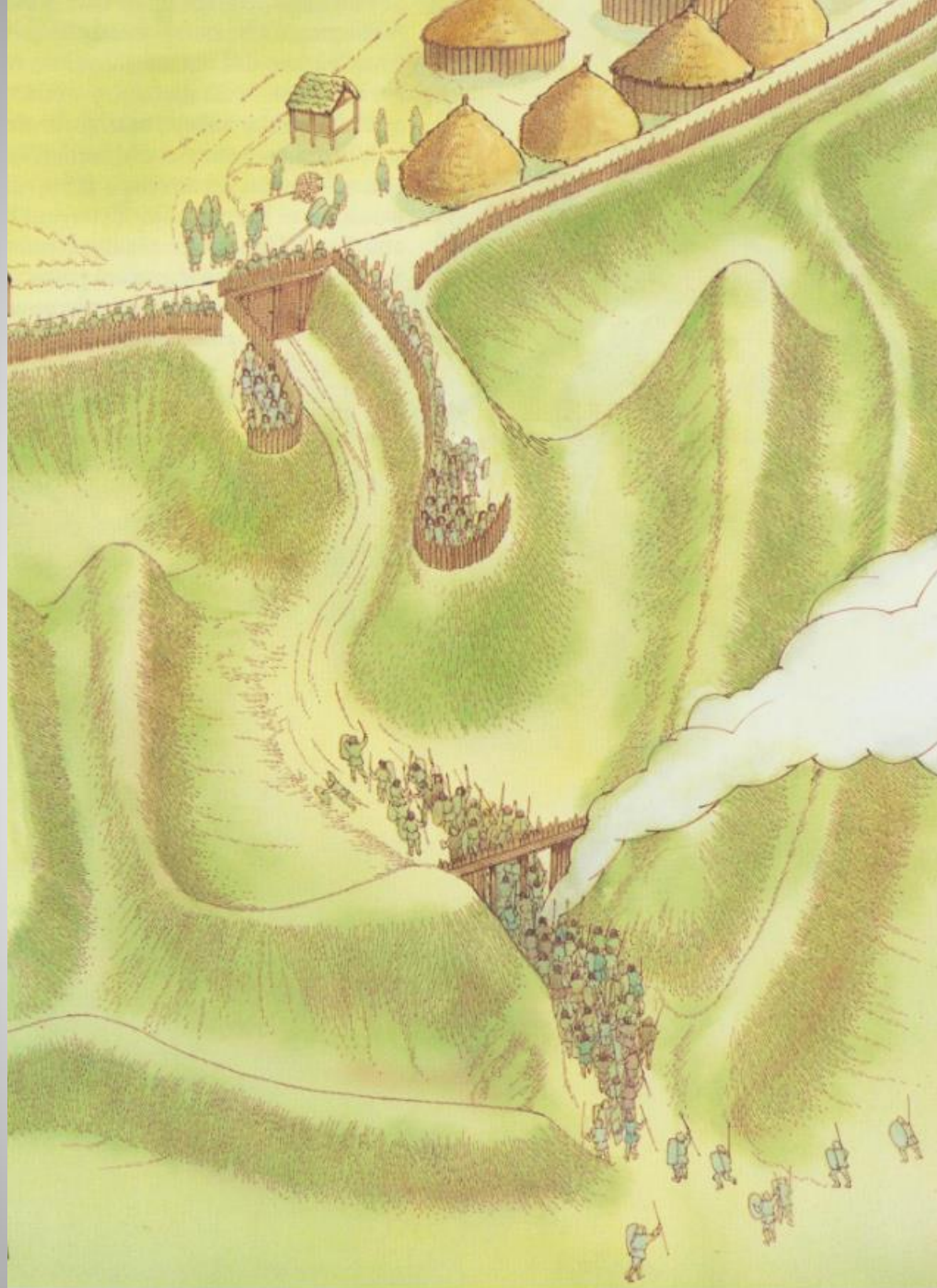


The defences c. 550 BC

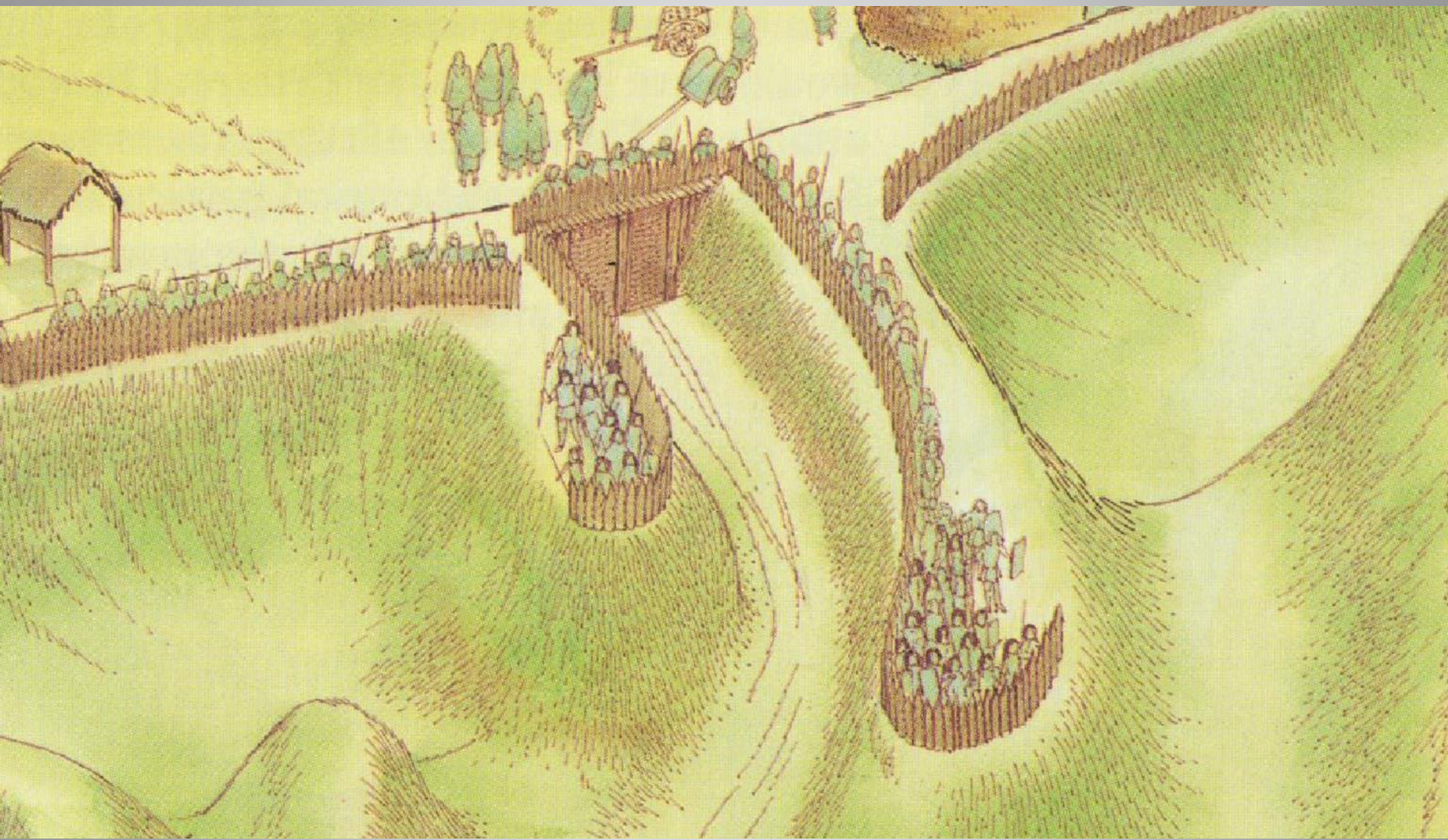


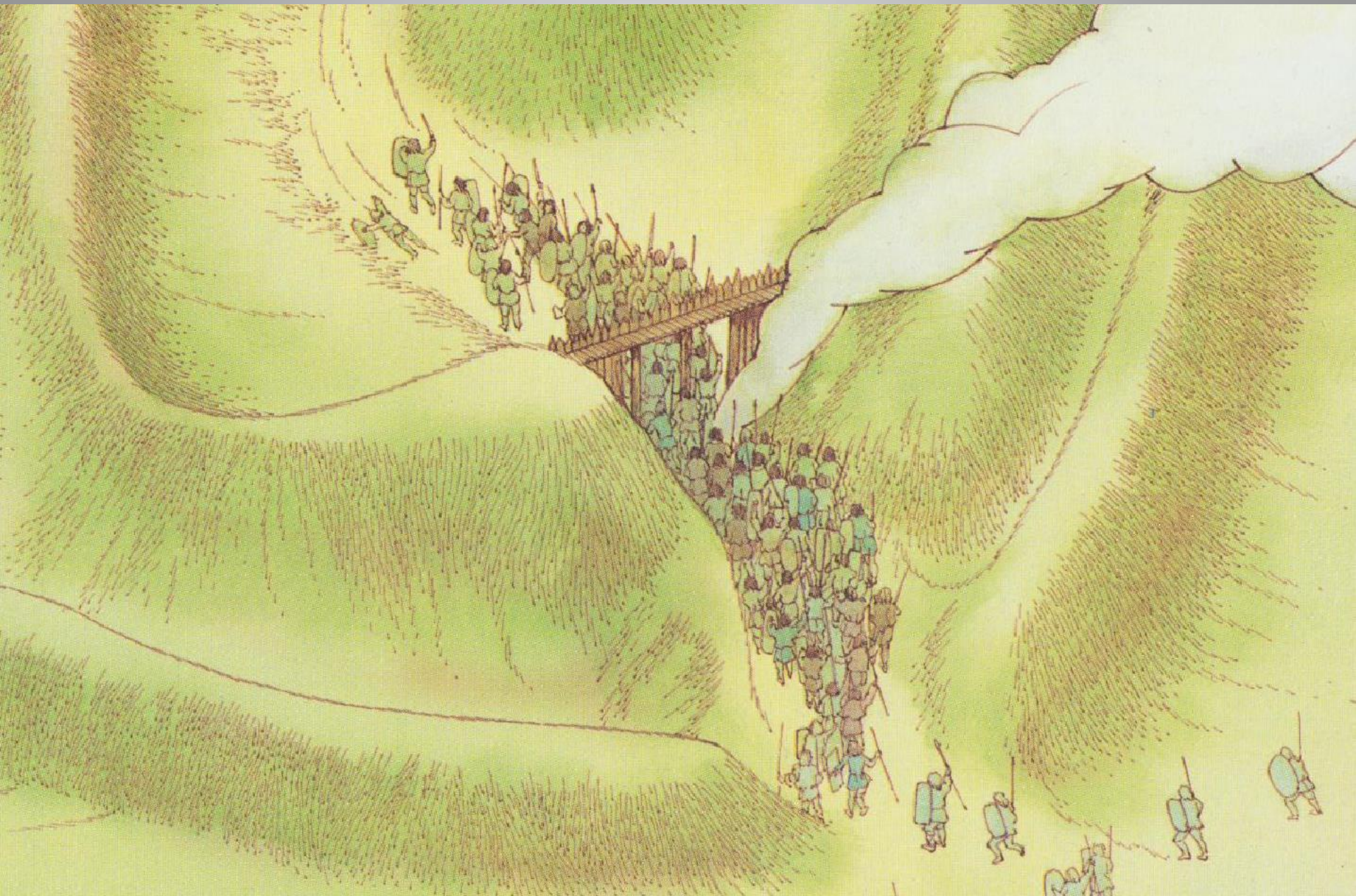
The defences c. 100 BC

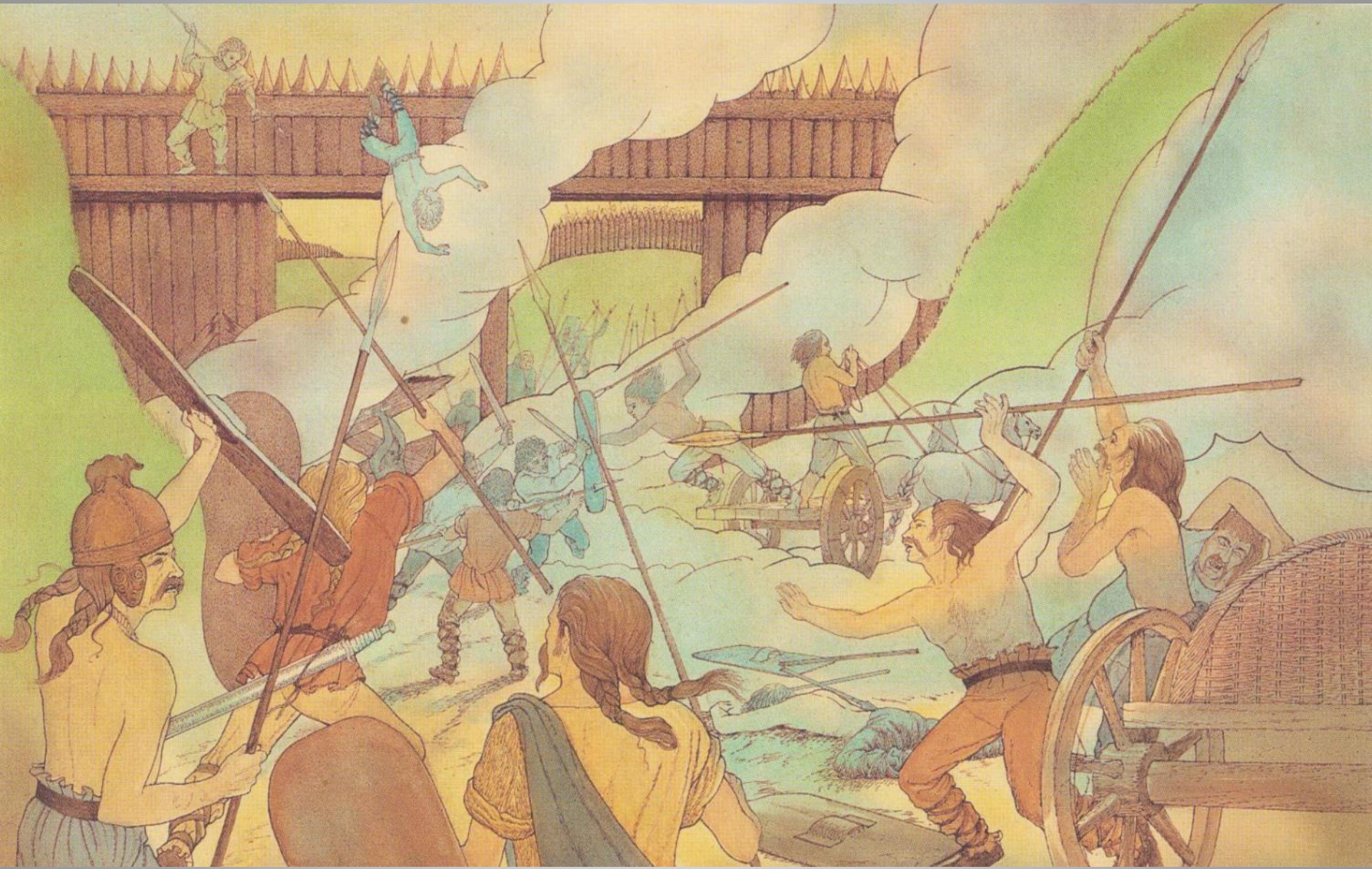




East Gate c. 100 BC







Thanking the gods

The gods were everywhere in the Celtic world and they were all-powerful: it was essential that they should be placated.

Danebury has produced evidence of a number of propitiatory deposits, usually on the bottoms of pits. Burials of all or part of animal carcasses are the most frequent. Horses and dogs appear out of proportion to the normal occurrences of these animals, and horse legs are particularly frequent. In this selection there must be a ritual significance that eludes us.

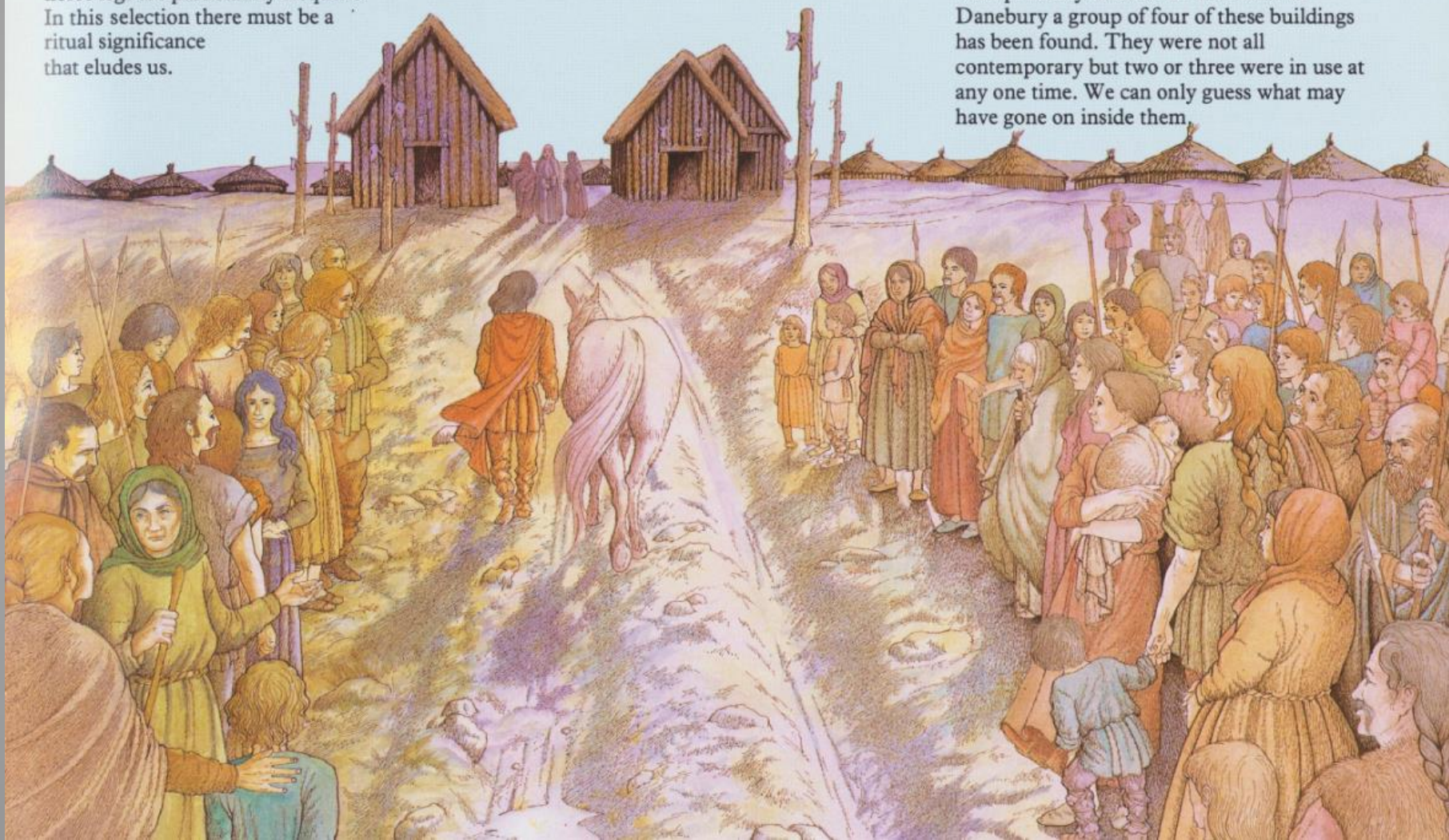
Other offerings include deposits of grain, tools, horse-trappings and pots. There may well have been others such as wool, cheese and barrels of mead all of which will have left no archaeological trace.

The simplest explanation is that these various deposits were gifts to the gods, thanking them, perhaps, for protecting the corn or other commodities which had been stored in the pits. We can only guess.

Shrines and holy places

Sacred places were widespread in the landscape. The gods were thought to preside in clumps of old trees, in weird-shaped rocks, in springs and in rivers. Quantities of fine metalwork, swords and shields, recovered from springs, rivers and bogs were probably ritual offerings to the gods.

Excavations have also brought to light evidence of small rectangular buildings which were probably shrines. In the centre of Danebury a group of four of these buildings has been found. They were not all contemporary but two or three were in use at any one time. We can only guess what may have gone on inside them.

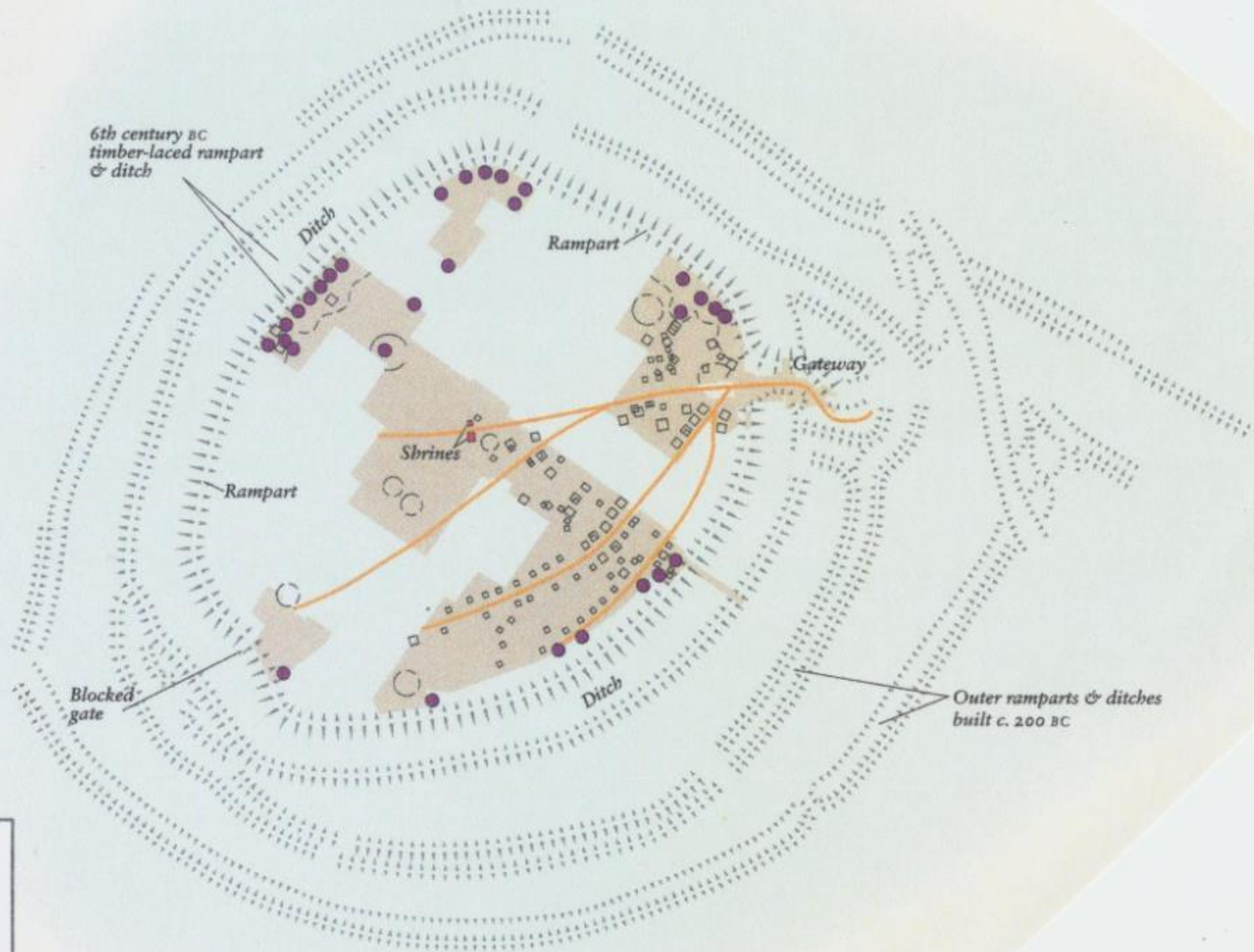




Gold Coins

Danebury excavations

The inhabitants of the fort lived in circular huts, built close to the ramparts for shelter. The inner zone was occupied by granaries and storage pits and at the centre of the fort were four square structures identified as shrines.



Excavated area

Road

Granary

House

Gully

Edge of quarry

100 yards

100 m






Chanctonbury

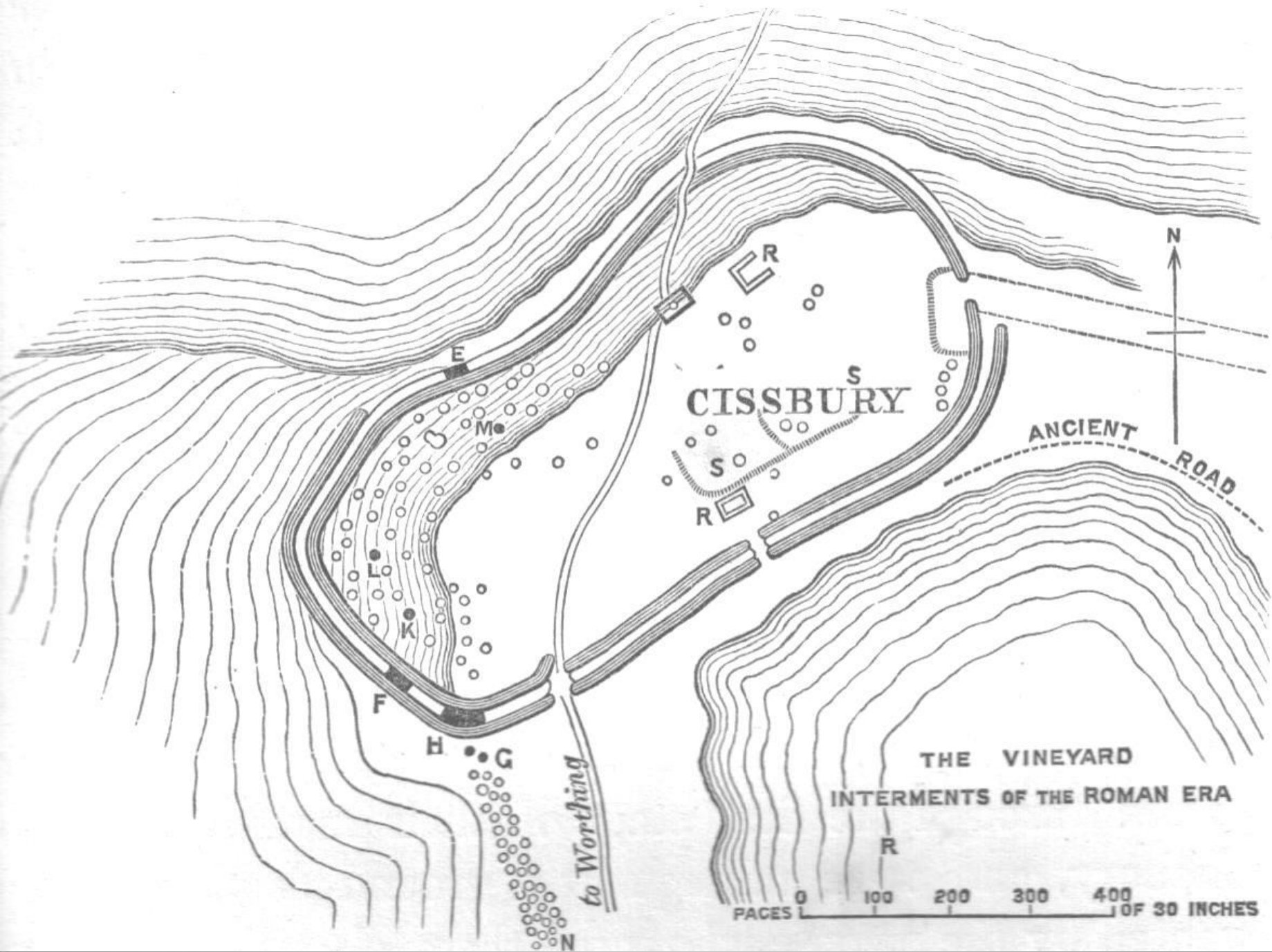
Car Park and Picnic Site

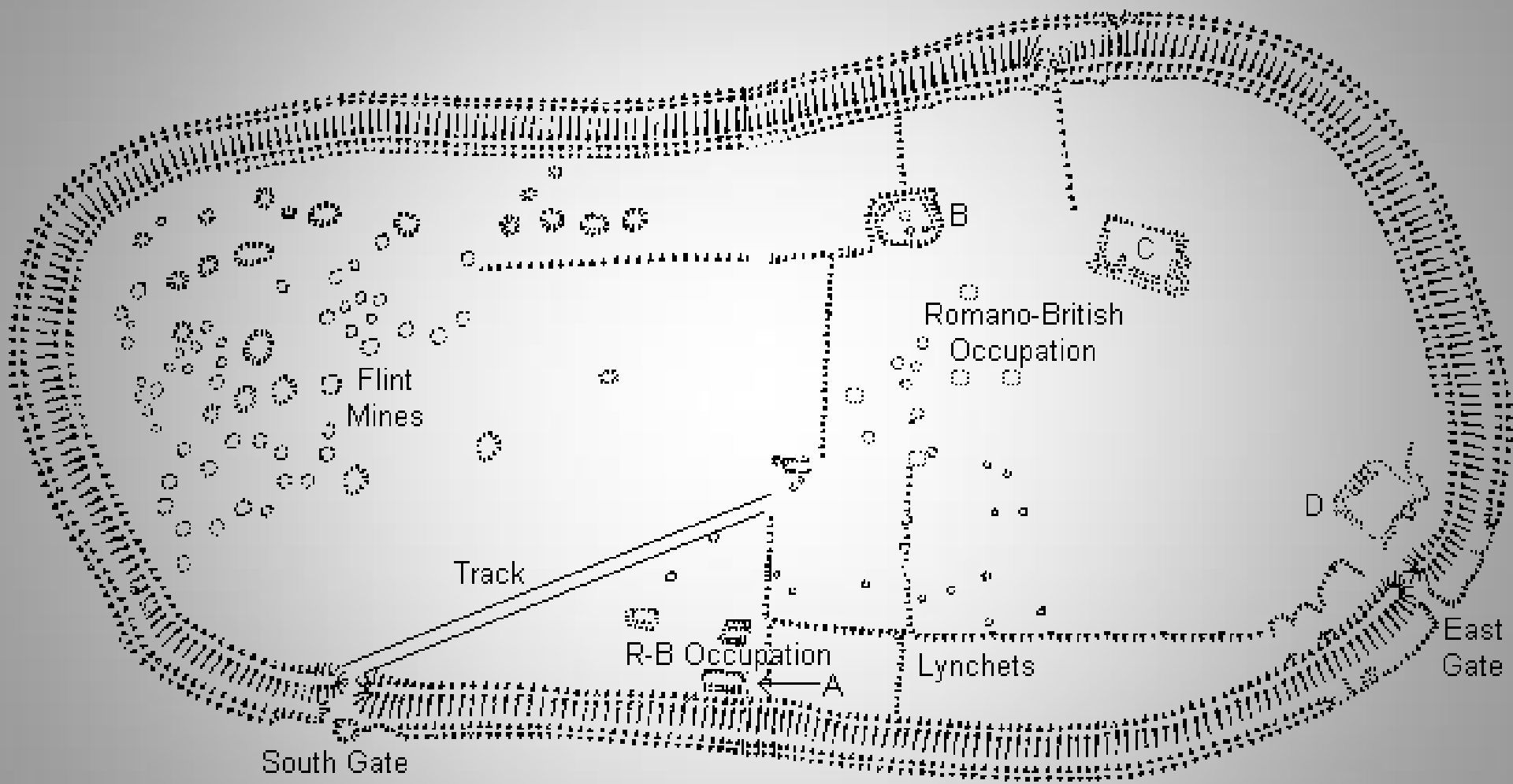
Cissbury and Chanctonbury hillforts video



Chanctonbury
Car Park and Picnic Site







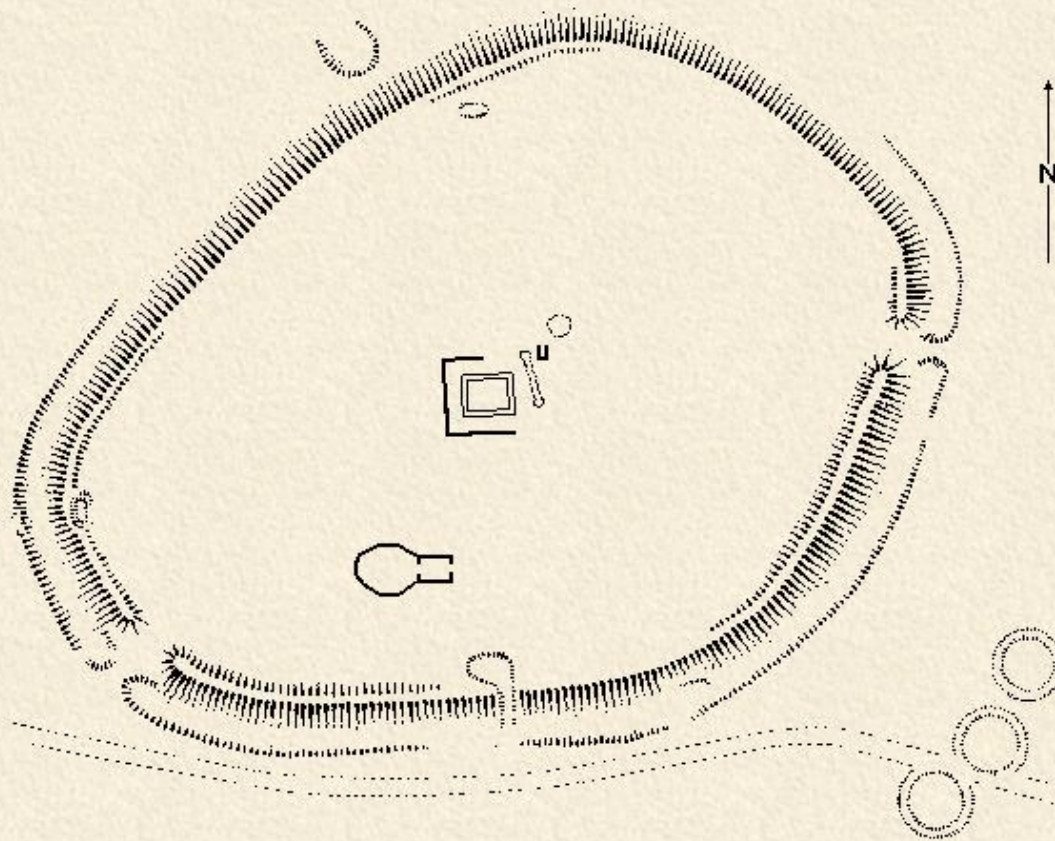


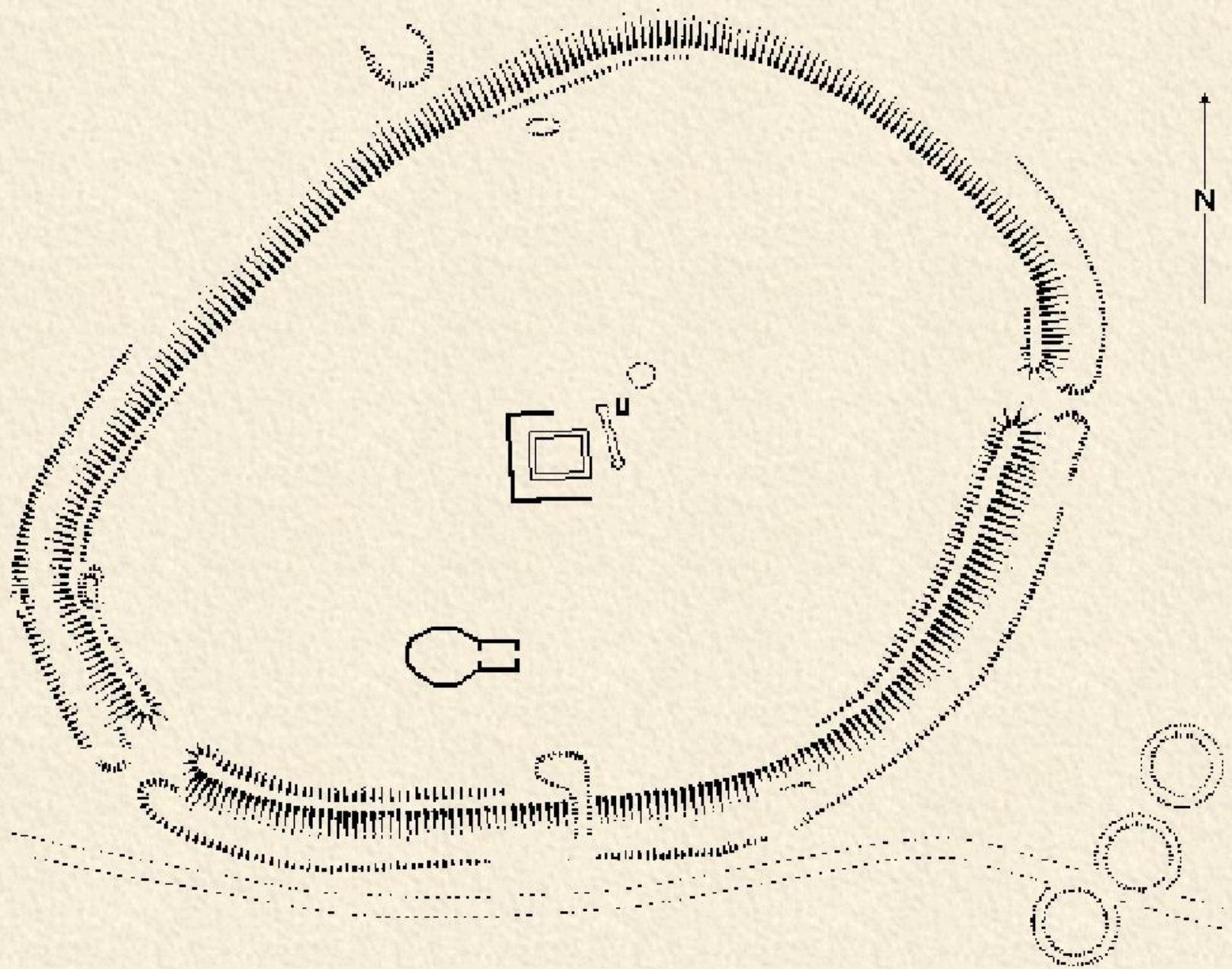




Chanctonbury Ring Hill Fort

The outer Ring of the fort itself is roughly oval, measures roughly 550ft by 400ft and has a two entrances, in the south-west and east. Pottery found and carbon dating on an animal bone suggests the fort was built in the early Iron-Age, in the 6th to 5th centuries BC. Since this time, the Ring has suffered many times, perhaps the greatest disturbance being by tree roots, though in the Second World War, dugouts were cut into the Ring in the "L.D.V pattern". Several Roman coins have been found within the Ring, dating from the time of the emperor Nero (54-68 AD) to Gratian (375-383 AD), though many have been lost to treasure hunters, one labourer boasted of selling a single coin to a gentleman for about a years wages. The only other interesting find apart from the building detailed below was a bronze Fibula (brooch).







F. Smith 1991

Maiden Castle hillfort video

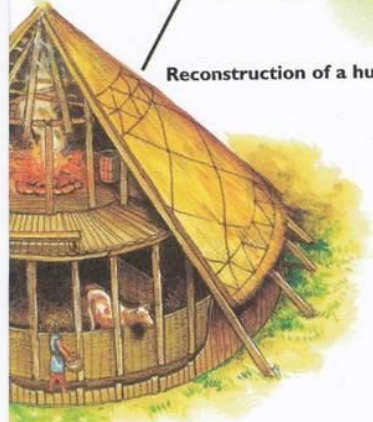




An earlier form of the eastern gateway

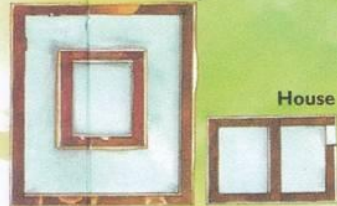


Reconstruction of a hut interior



Temple

House



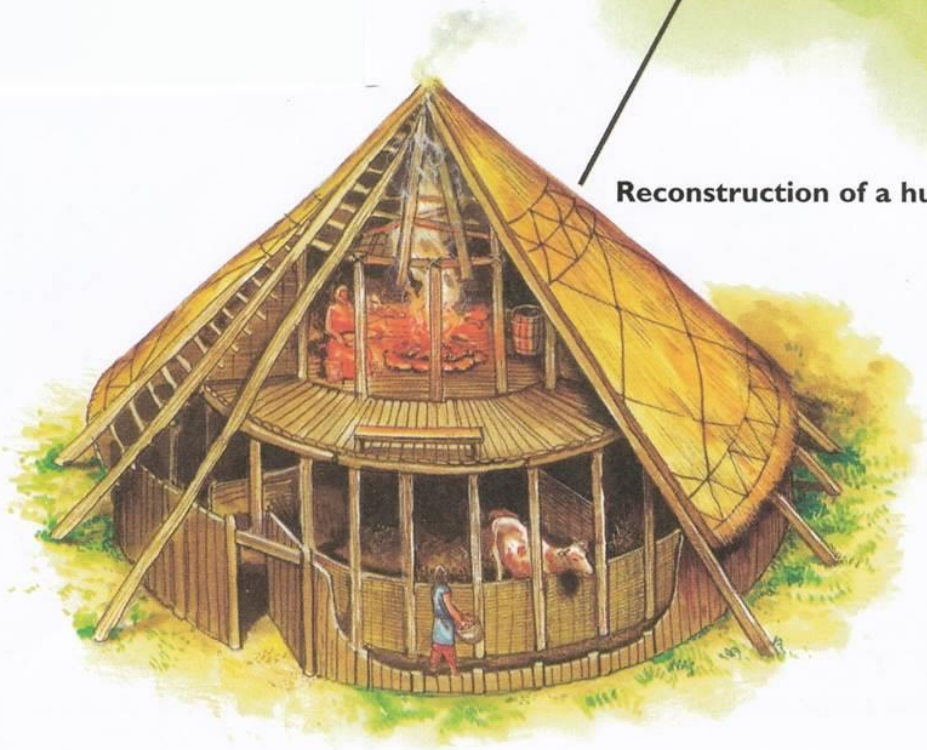
Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)

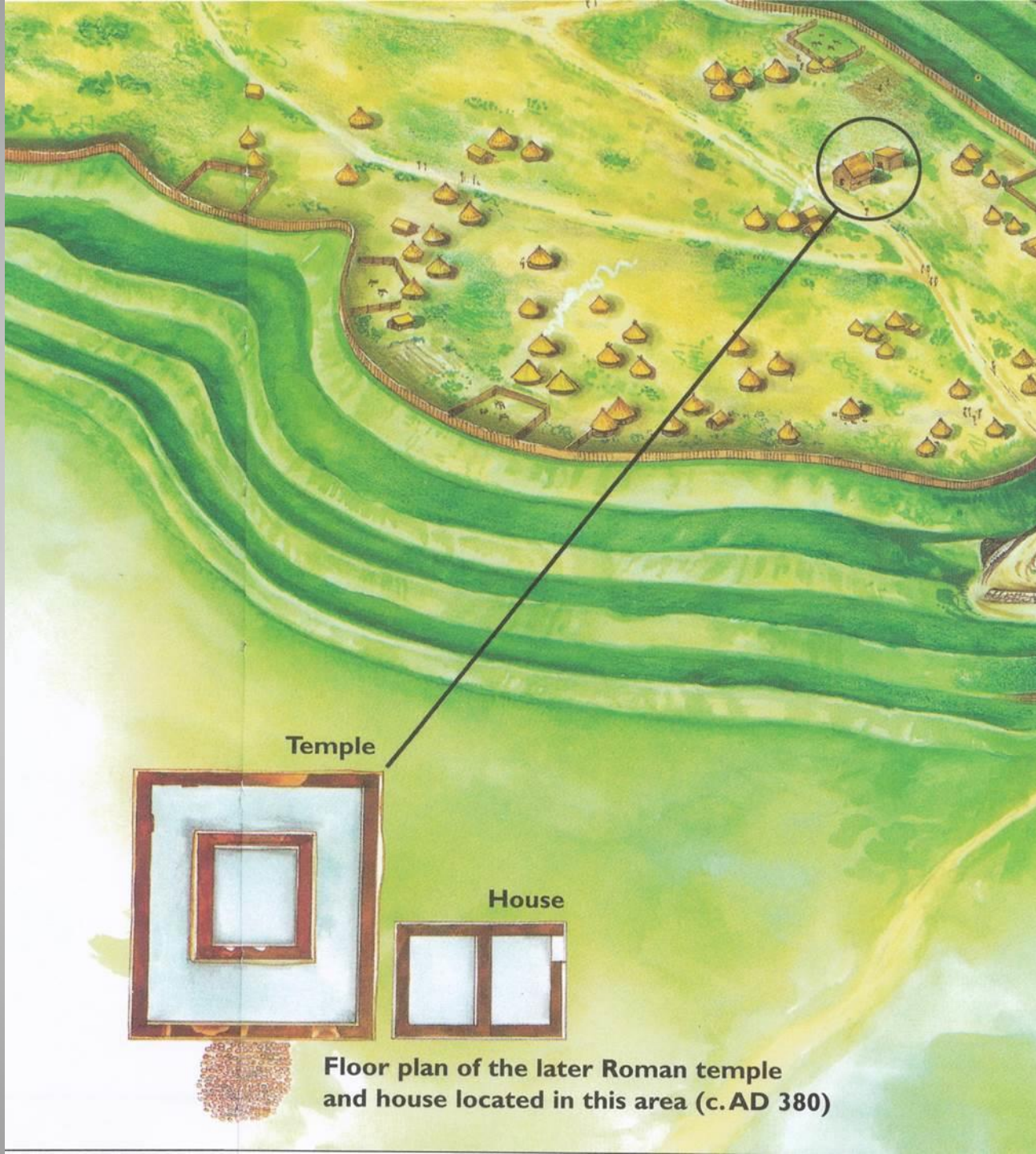
Roundhouses

Timber 'sentry' platforms

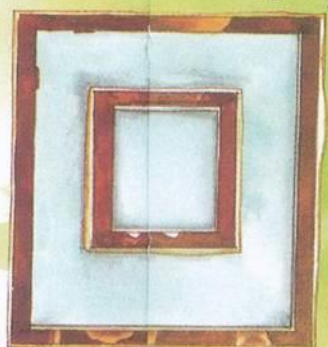


Reconstruction of a hut interior

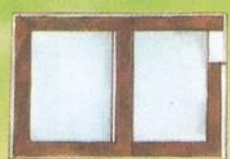




Temple



House

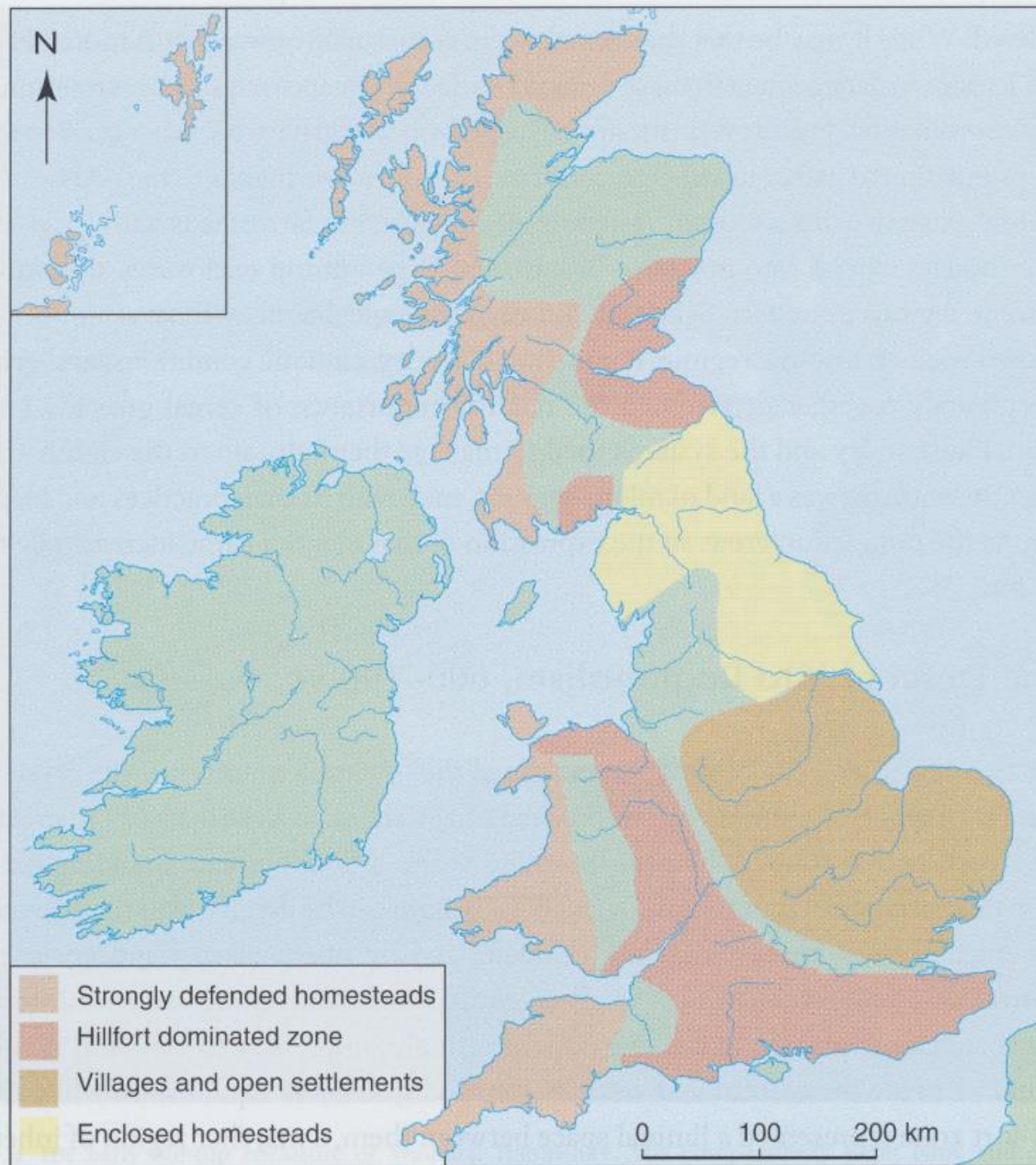


Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)

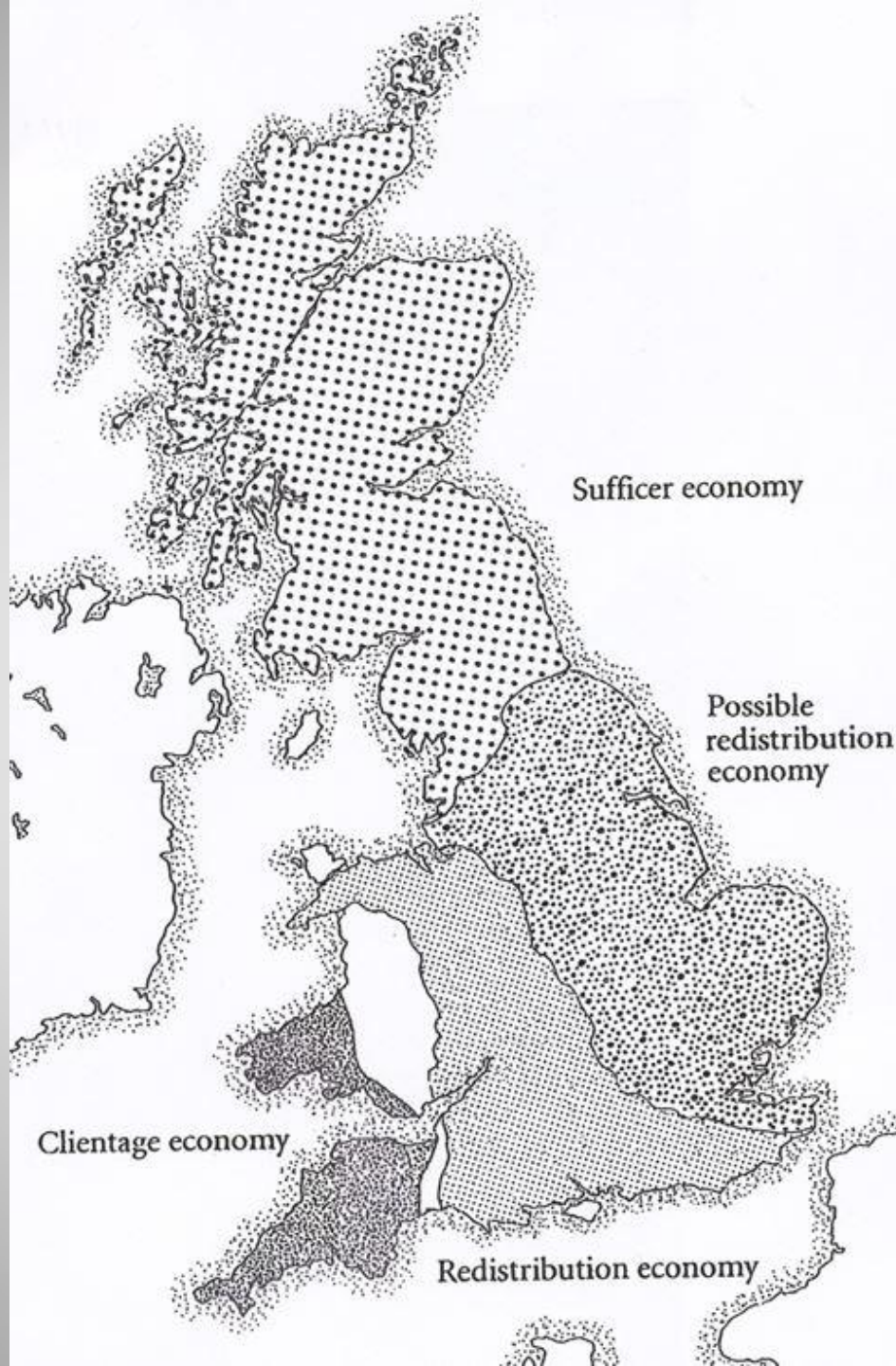


9.22 The massive defensive earthworks of one of the gates of the hill-fort of Maiden Castle, Dorset. Anyone approaching the fort had to weave their way between the ramparts uncertain of their reception from the defenders who commanded the ramparts





9.10 In Britain in the second half of the first millennium BC it is possible to trace different types of settlement pattern, suggesting broad zones in which the socio-economic systems were much the same. There is a marked contrast between the west of the country and the east



Sufficer economy

Possible
redistribution
economy

Clientage economy

Redistribution economy

- Main hill-fort zones
- Zones of smaller defended settlements
- Distribution of brochs
- Distribution of duns
- Late Iron Age large undefended settlement
- 'Territorial' oppidum
- Other oppidum
- Other important defended site (hill-fort or broch)
- Major ritual assembly place
- Sculpted stone
- Tribes in the 1st century AD
- Circulation of Gallo-Belgic coinage, c.120–60 BC
- Northern limit of native coinage, c.AD 40
- Mint
- Area of Arras culture burials
- Northern limit of late Iron Age cremation burials
- Migration of peoples
- Roman expedition under Julius Caesar (dashes indicate conjectured advance)



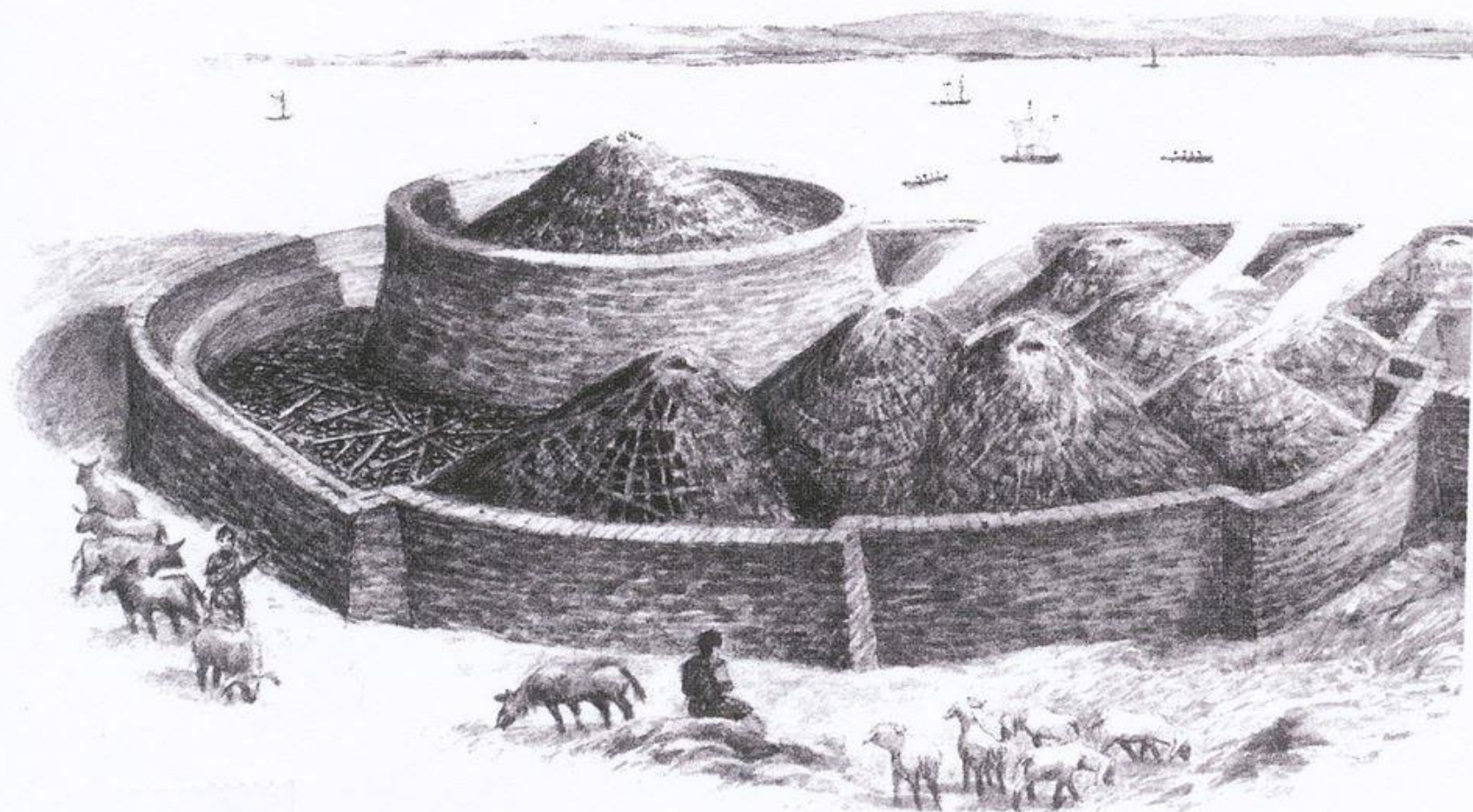
(ATLANTIC
OCEAN)



1 A reconstruction of a hut circle settlement in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh



9 Iron Age cultivation of freely draining slopes in Holyrood Park. The remains of such terraces are clearly visible in the park even today



74 (above right) Artist's reconstruction of what the Broch of Guerness may have looked like. The short returns in the line of the outer wall look like defensive measures to provide 'raking fire' along the wall face but there is little evidence of warfare on Orkney at this time.





(ATLANTIC
OCEAN)



(Irish
Sea)





9.33 The royal site of Tara, Meath, Ireland. The complex of monuments had a long history, starting with a Neolithic burial mound, and continued in use into the Middle Ages. It was a place where Irish kings were inaugurated



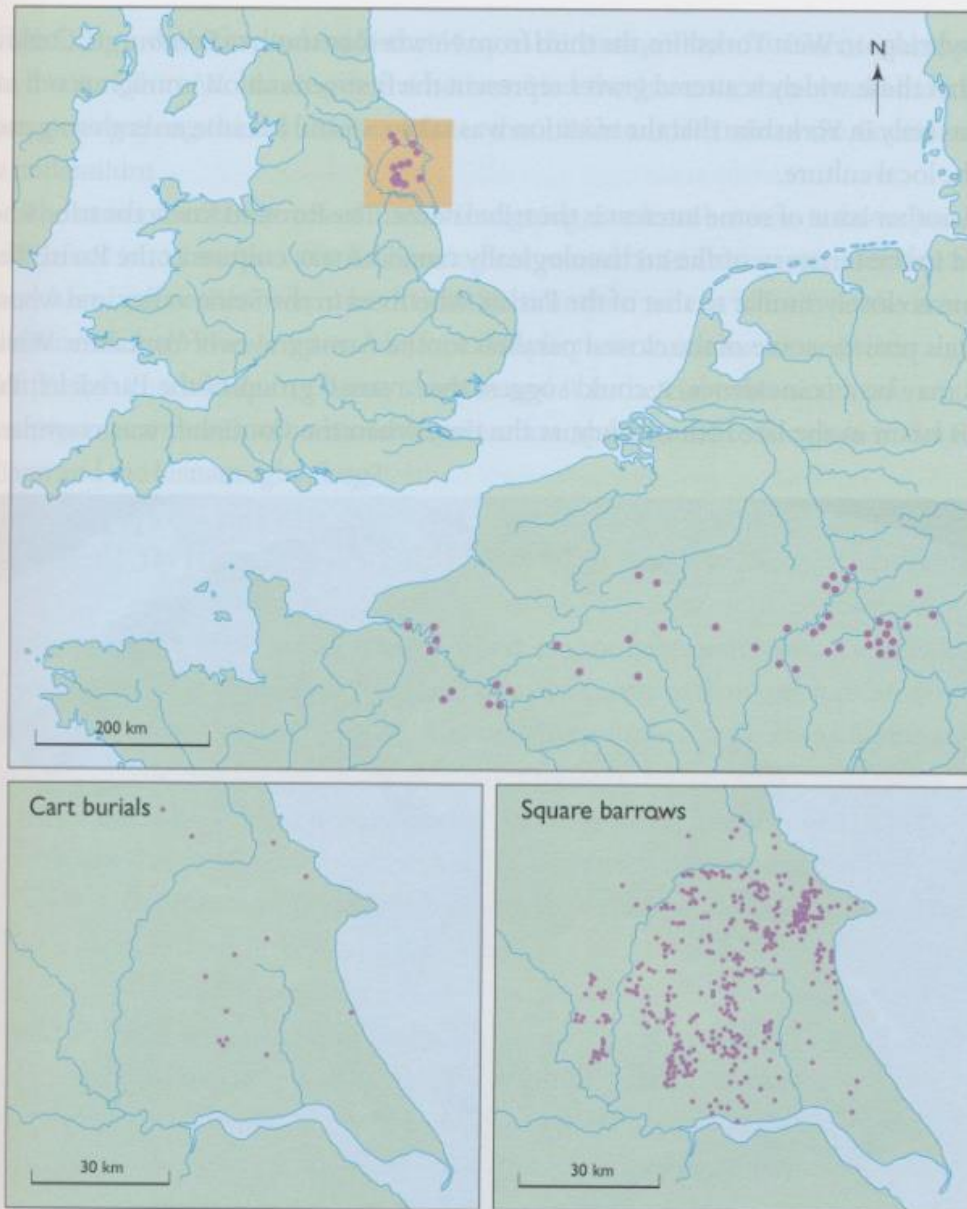




9.21 A vehicle burial from Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire, during excavation by Oxford Archaeology North. The vehicle was placed complete in the grave pit with the human body lying within it. The two wheels are represented now by their iron tyres. The pole of the vehicle to which the horses were attached can be seen in the front







9.20 The burial of prominent members of society accompanied by two-wheeled vehicles was a practice adopted by a number of communities during the La Tène period (*top map*). In Britain vehicle burials cluster in Yorkshire (with a few others beyond). In the same region square barrows, similar to those on the Continent, were also common. The evidence suggests that the Yorkshire communities were in contact with contemporaries in the Seine valley

