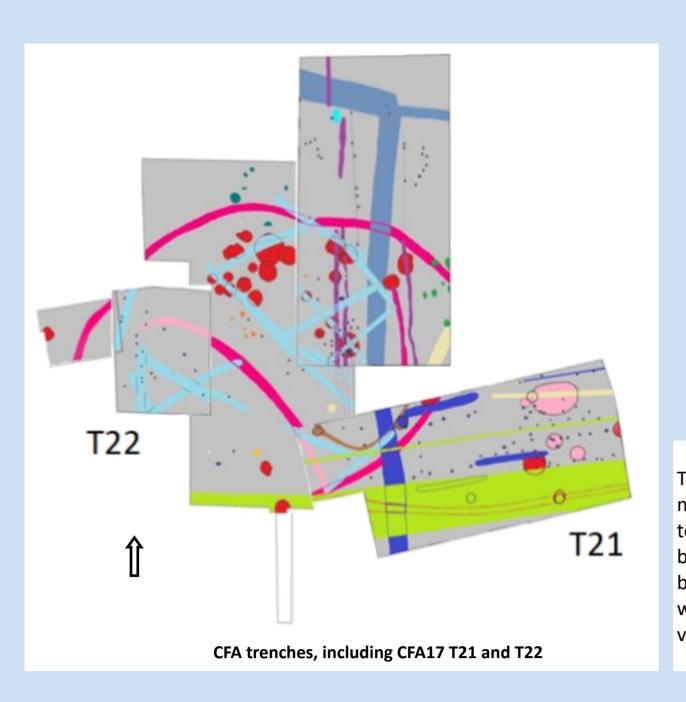
COCKS FARM ABINGER 2017



T21 was dug to investigate magnetometry anomalies and to look for Iron Age and Roman boundaries. T22 was in the gap between T20 and T 6/11 and was to look at possible Roman vineyard trenches

MESO- AND NEOLITHIC



This sherd of Neolithic pottery adds to one found in 2015. 2100+ pieces of worked flint were found this year, including microliths

IRON AGE



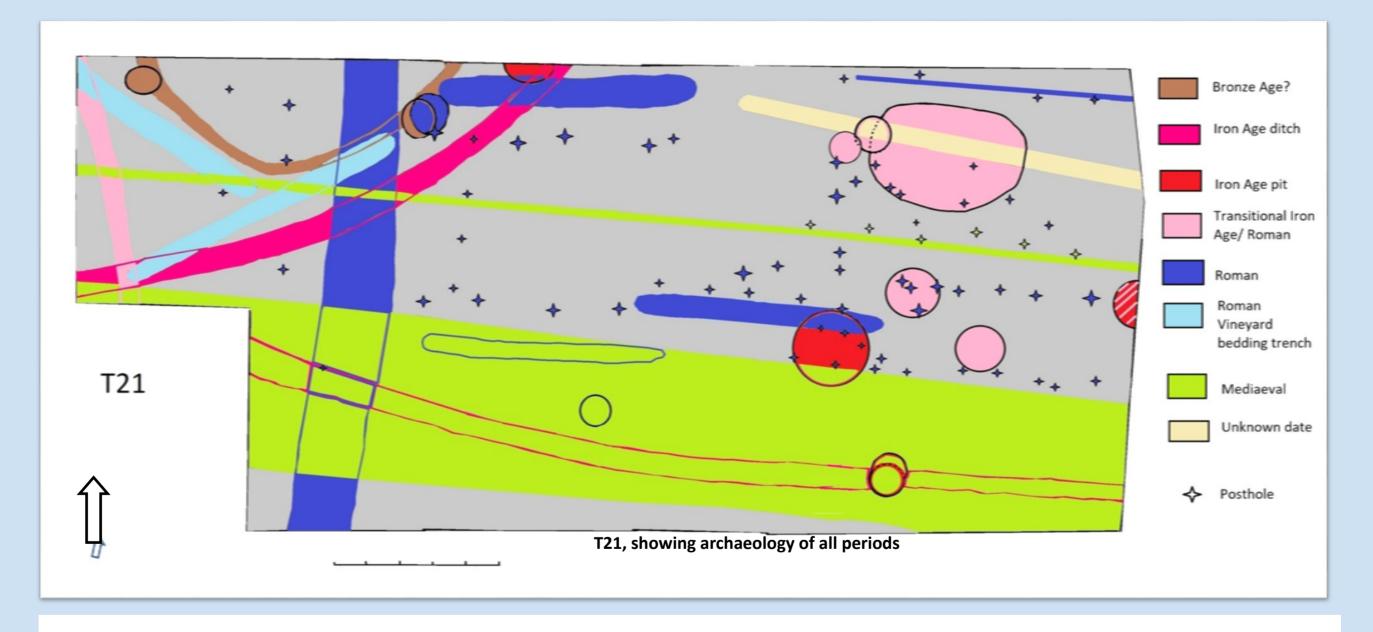
This large Iron Age pit was 2m deep and about 2.3m across. It was only partially excavated, to preserve the Roman postholes in its upper fill

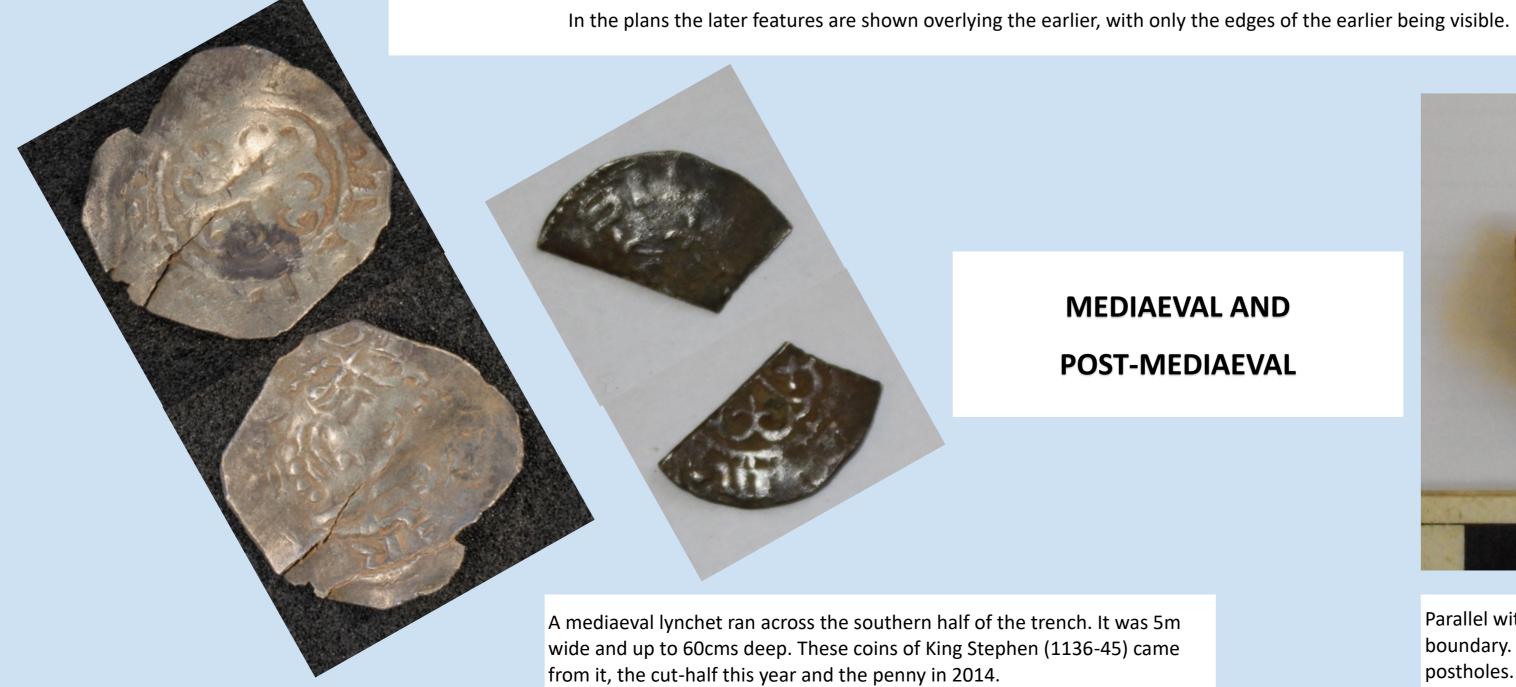


The head of a horse (and part of the jaw of another horse) had been placed in the pit as a closing deposit.



The deposit partially excavated at the Research Centre. The teeth showed that the horse was between 3 and 4 years old when it died, and probably female.





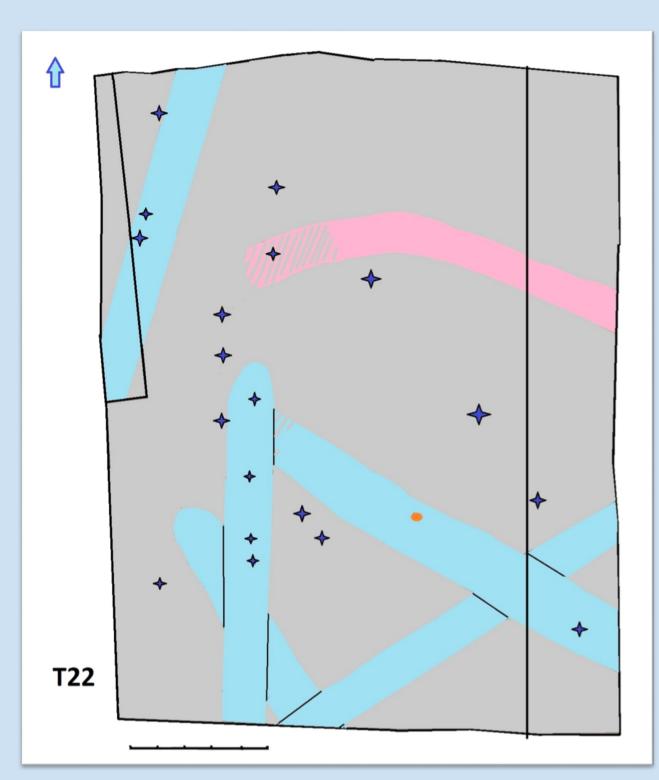
MEDIAEVAL AND POST-MEDIAEVAL



Parallel with it 3.5m to the north was a mediaeval boundary. This sherd was found in one of this boundary's postholes. It is dated 1350-1450.

COCKS FARM ABINGER 2017

VINEYARD TRENCHES T22



As in T20, the hill had eroded more deeply to the west, and features such as the Iron Age enclosure ditch (pink) grew shallower or disappeared.

Terminal



This later vineyard trench contained a lot of ironstone, much of which was burnt. This may have had an anti-frost function.



Hammerstone

Quern

POSSIBLE BRONZE AGE

Many of the vineyard trenches contained earlier pottery as well as stones. This pot is of a Roman form but hand-made in a typically Iron Age fabric. The sealing resin on its rim suggests that it may have been brought on site for its contents.



A curved shallow ditch in the north-west corner of T21 had been severely damaged by Roman and Iron Age activities. It had two pits on its outer edge.



The pit to the west was only disturbed in its upper fill. It was oval, $1.2 \times 0.75m$, straight-sided, 0.4m deep and flat-bottomed.



The pit's fills contained calcined flint, struck flakes and Bronze Age pottery (and nothing else, unlike all the other (Iron Age or later) pits seen).

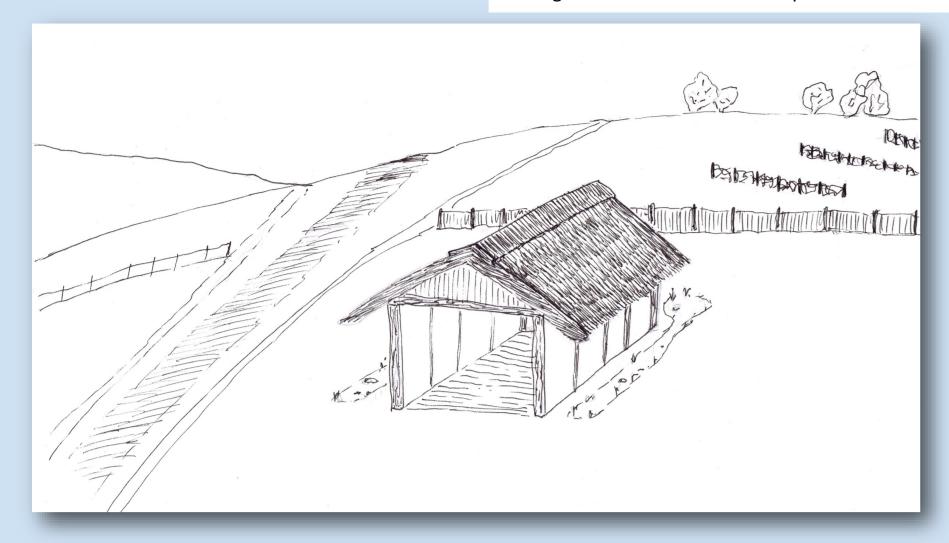


Found near the east pit, within building A, this is part of a Bronze Age spindle whorl.

COCKS FARM ABINGER 2017

ROMAN BUILDINGS

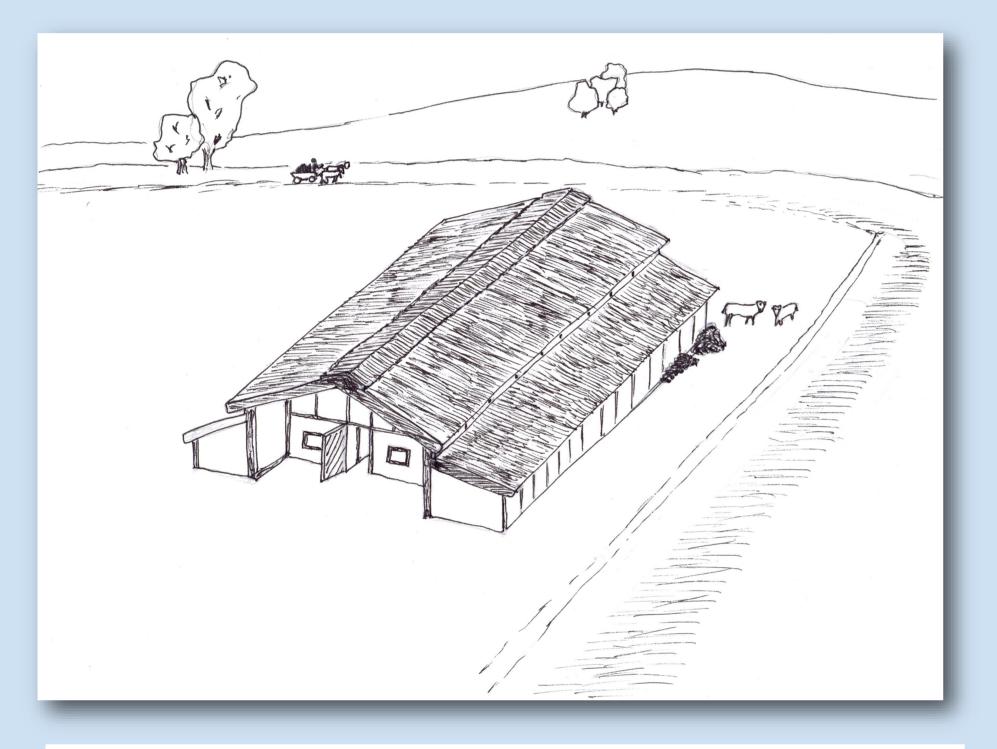
The postholes of probably three buildings were seen. **Building A** was a simple one-roomed structure, probably a barn. Building B was aisled with internal partitions and multi-phased. It probably continued outside the north of the trench.



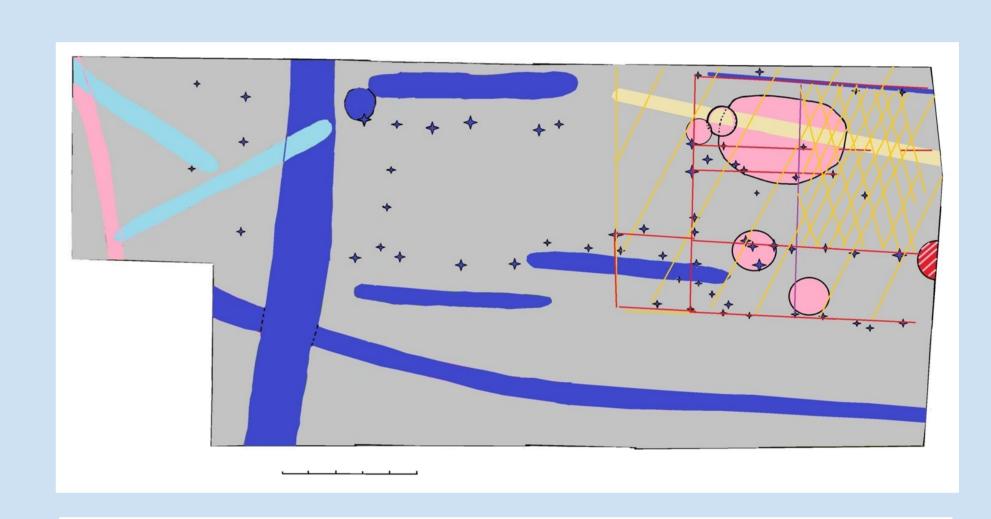
Possible appearance of building A: The building was probably thatched, and may have had a wooden floor, as the sand beneath its floor unusually had no finds, burnt material or stones in it.



Position of building A. It was cut by a later boundary.



Possible appearance of building B: the western half of the building may have been occupied by people, and the eastern by animals.



Building B was built over the large Iron Age pit and also a series of shallow earlier Roman or transitional pits. It was probably later than building A, but it is possible that they co-existed.



Cm

Pieces of a strainer, a glass bead and window glass from the floor of building B.



ROMAN BOUNDARIES

This very large north-south Roman boundary ditch cut an earlier Iron Age east-west ditch, in an area of particularly hard ironpan. The Iron Age ditch underlay and was on the same alignment as the Mediaeval lynchet. Was this boundary in use from the Iron Age to 1900?

