



Kestle Field, Roundwood, Cornwall
Fieldwalking

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017R029

Kestle Field, Roundwood, Cornwall – Fieldwalking. Report no. 2017R029

Report No

2017R029

Report Name

Kestle Field, Roundwood – Fieldwalking

Report Author

Anna Lawson-Jones

Event Type

Field walking

Client Organisation

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Client Contact

Nick Stevenson, Lead Ranger, National Trust

Monuments (MonUID)

1 x enclosure

3 x barrows

Fieldwork dates (From)

25/03/2017

(To)

25/03/2017

(Created By)

Anna Lawson-Jones

(Create Date)

March/April 2017

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Kestle Field, Roundwood near Truro. Feock Parish.

(Town – for urban sites)

(Postcode)

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 83204

(Northing) Y co-ord

40525



Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

© Cornwall Council 2017

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

List of Figures

Fig 1 Location map showing Kestle Field, plus surrounding sites recorded in the Cornwall Historic Environment Record sites (HER).

Fig 2 Modern mapping showing Kestle Field and barrows, plus the five field-walked areas.

Fig 3 Extract from the Feock Tithe Map, 1845, showing fields owned and occupied by John Magor of Tregew (plus a comment on Tregew).

Fig 4 Just post World War II aerial reconnaissance photograph showing Kestle Field and its surrounding area. Taken on the 12th July 1946. Note the lack of change over a century between this and the map above. On the east side of Kestle Field a series of parallel soil marks may represent the remains of a field system of medieval origin.

Fig 5 Top - Recent (drone) aerial photograph taken showing Kestle Field from the northeast giving a very clear impression of the former enclosure area (supplied by National Trust Lead Ranger Neil Stevenson). Bottom - Walking Area SE first thing – before the morning mist has burnt off!

Fig 6 Area SW in the process of being fieldwalked.

Fig 7 A well-earned rest followed by more field walking under a beautiful blue spring sky.

Fig 8 Scanning the ground for finds and the collection of a mixed range of material in to area bags.

Fig 9 Tea break, map gazing and local recollections, followed by more field walking – note the red flag for marking unglazed pottery finds.

1 Project background and summary

The fieldwalking and this short report was agreed between Ann Preston-Jones (HE/CAU) and Neil Stevenson (NT), following Cathy Parkes's 2015 identification of a possible large hillfort enclosure at Kestle Field on the basis of the 1840 Tithe Map field name (Parkes 2015, 31, 32 and Fig 53). An estimate was produced and agreed in February 2017, and the fieldwalking took place on Saturday March 25th.

The site lies at a maximum height of 58m above sea level, and is within both an AONB (South Coast Western) and an AGSV (The Fal Estuary Complex). It is currently owned and managed by the National Trust (Lead Ranger – Neil Stevenson). The site at the time of fieldwalking had just been shallowly horse ploughed.

The following 23 CAS (Cornwall Archaeological Society), CAU (Cornwall Archaeological Unit) and MAG (Meneage Archaeological Group) volunteers kindly offered their services for fieldwalking:

Alison Brown, Kathy Conder, David Edyvean, Imogen Edyvean, Linda Edyvean, Steve Fletcher, Graham Folkerd, Tracie Haslam, Richard Hoskins, Sheila James, Andy Jones, Ron Lambeth, Linda Lawlor, Louisa Lawlor, Scott Lawlor, Oscar Lawson-Jones, Pam McInally, Cathy Parkes, Jan Phillips, Meg Reed, John Sykes, Joanna Tagney, Deborah Wingfield and myself.

The day was a great success with fine weather, keen experienced and inexperienced walkers and a number of interesting finds being made.

It became obvious during fieldwalking that long-term ploughing had resulted in the disappearance of most non-stone prehistoric artefacts (particularly the prehistoric pottery). Finds included Neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork, probable Iron Age/Romano-British holed and notched slates (plus two possible sherds), Medieval pottery, late Medieval and post-Medieval handmade brick, tile, clay tobacco pipes, glass and pottery, late 18th century copper smelting slag, and miscellaneous quartz pebbles and ironwork.

2 Aims and objectives

The aim of the project was to systematically collect as many finds as possible from the ploughed field surface by area. It was hoped that some patterning might be visible within the collected finds in terms of density, find type or date.

The objective was to verify the presence of an Iron Age enclosure or hillfort in Kestle Field and to establish a likely date for its construction, occupation and use.

3 Working methods

The 4.98 hectare field was divided into five easily divisible, but differently sized areas (see Fig 2), four of which radiated out from an off centre grassed area at the highest point of the field (see Fig 5). These were termed areas NE, NW, SE and SW. The fifth area lay to the immediate west of area SW and was termed area W. Together these five areas covered the entirety of Kestle Field.

Each of the five areas was marked on to a base map, which additionally showed the location of three potential barrows within Kestle Field (one each in area NE, SE and SW). The barrows were identified by the National Mapping Programme and have recently been marked on to HER mapping (see Fig 2).

Following an initial introduction to the site and the general vicinity, the areas to be walked were laid out using a combination of ranging rods and bamboo sticks.

The field-walkers were asked to pick up all pottery, pebbles, flints, notched, holed or otherwise altered slates, non-local or distinctive stones, plus any clay pipes, metal and even glass in an effort to get as full a picture as possible of the field's past use. Each field-walker was issued with one bag for mixed finds, and small bags for unglazed pottery. Pam McInally kindly donated a quiver of red flags for use in marking unglazed pottery find spots in the field.

The areas were walked one by one, starting with the largest. Equipped with bags, the field-walkers were lined up along one edge, area by area; they then proceeded to walk slowly forward scanning the ground and collecting finds as they went (see Figs 5 to 9). The field-walkers then turned around and returned to their start point, collecting as they went. In effect each area was rapidly walked twice from different directions, which maximised the amount of material collected. The finds were then put in to a large labelled bag for mixed finds, again area by area. By the end of the day we had five large bags of mixed finds.

Each small unglazed pottery find bag was left in the field where it was found and marked with a red flag. The bags were then collected and individually marked with exact co-ordinates using a handheld GPS Unit.

Back in the office, the finds were sorted, counted and selectively discarded or washed and dried, and then listed. Red brick, glass, obviously recent heavy-duty metalwork, very recent pottery and most of the pebbles were discarded following counting. Other material, including all unglazed and/or all non-modern pottery, flint, slag, clay pipes, holed or notched shillet/slate and any other potentially interesting pieces were retained.

Unglazed pottery was washed and shown to Carl Thorpe who provided a rapid, off-the-cuff date for the earliest material. Note: As Carl commented, it is rare for prehistoric pottery to survive long-term ploughing and so the lack of early material contemporary with the probable Iron Age /Romano-British date of the enclosure is not surprising.

Lists of all finds with brief descriptions by area were then made, which include the unglazed pottery co-ordinates. These lists make up the results of the project and represent the majority of this report.

Note: Shortly after the completion of the field walk, Sheila James wrote a short summary for the CAS Area Representatives monthly update.

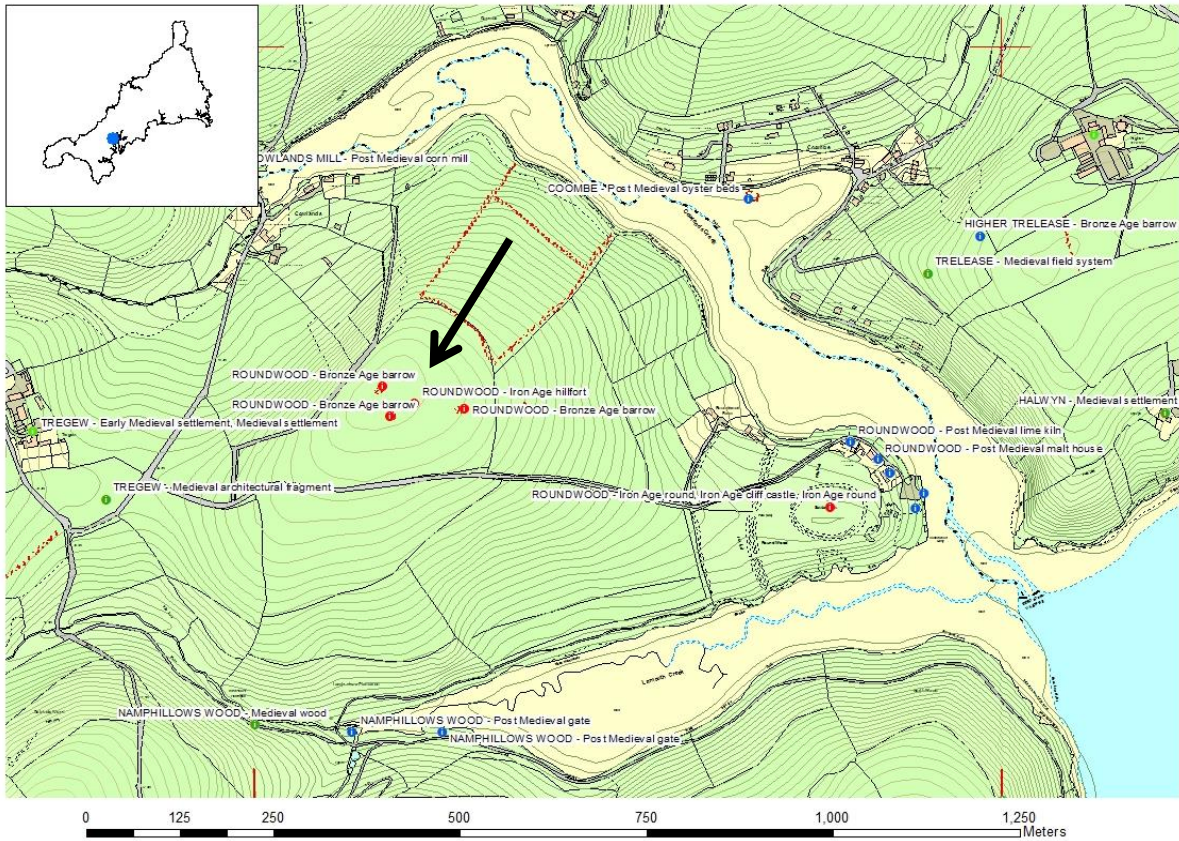


Fig 1 Location map showing Kestle Field, plus surrounding sites recorded in the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER).

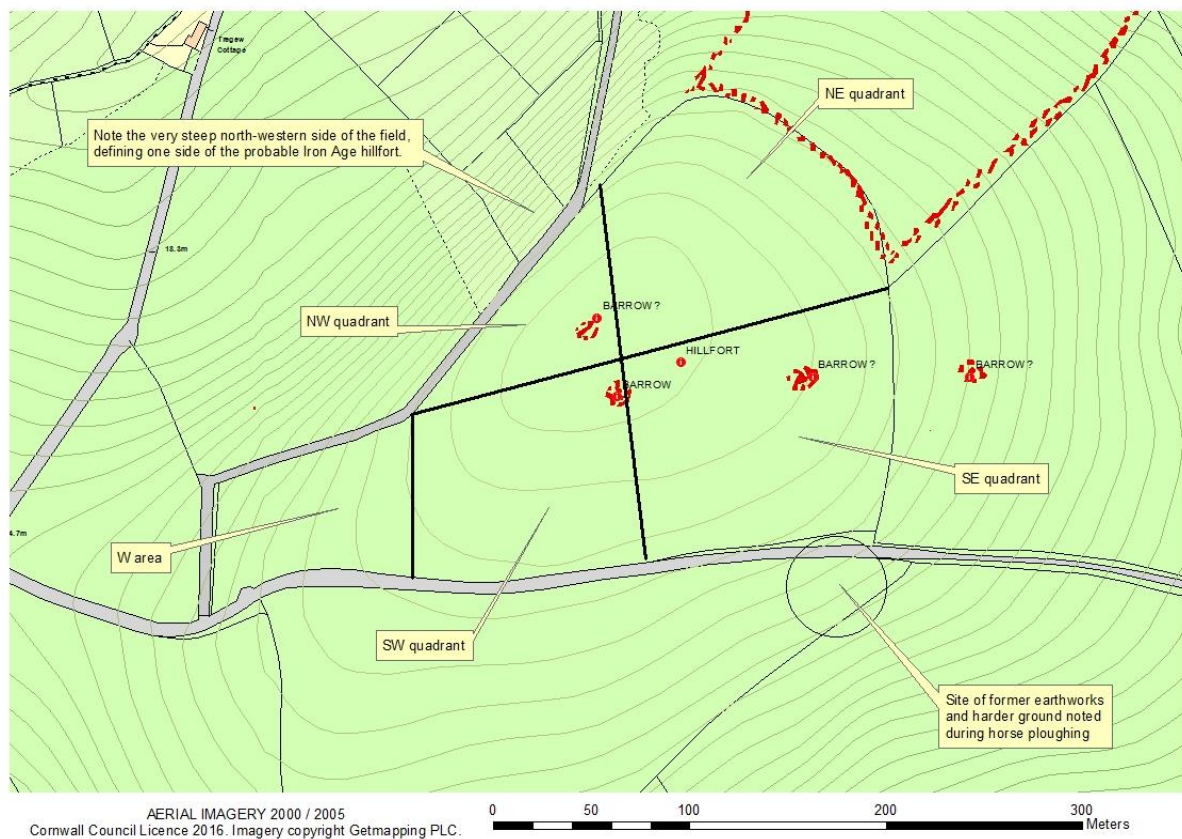


Fig 2 Modern mapping showing Kestle Field and barrows, plus the five field-walked areas.

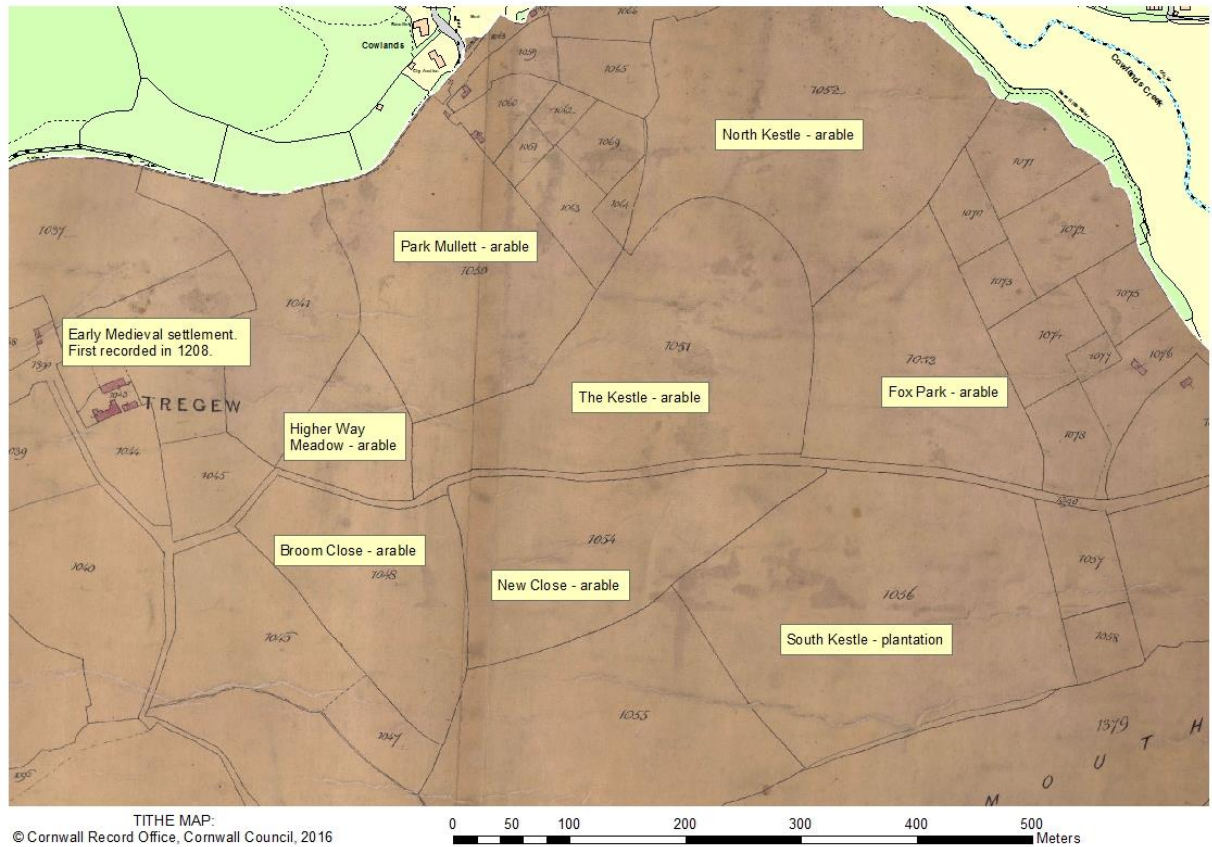


Fig 3 Extract from the Feock Tithe Map, 1845, showing fields owned and occupied by John Magor of Tregew (plus a comment on Tregew).



Fig 4 Just post World War II aerial reconnaissance photograph showing Kestle Field and its surrounding area. Taken on the 12th July 1946. Note the lack of change over a century between this and the map above. On the east side of Kestle Field a series of parallel soil marks may represent the remains of a strip field system of medieval origin.

Results

The results of the fieldwalking have been presented as a series of finds tables by area. Co-ordinates were given to unglazed 'early-looking' pottery (plus occasional flintwork). All other finds were collected by area.

The author processed, listed and commented on all finds, and is grateful to Carl Thorpe for his comments on the unglazed pottery. Finds have been listed alphabetically by type.

3.1 Brief chronological discussion

The site lies within land identified by Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC 1994) as Medieval Farmland. It forms a part of the agricultural heartland with settlements documented before the 17th century and whose field patterns are distinct from the straight-sided fields of later enclosure.

Originally an open hilltop overlooking the Fal River and creeks, the site was used by **prehistoric** people, evidenced by the scatter of broadly Neolithic/Bronze Age domestic-flintwork picked up during fieldwalking from the NE, SE and SW areas. Any less resilient artefacts such as organic material or pottery will have been lost through long-term ploughing (although any undisturbed deeper features will still preserve this material). Three potential **Bronze Age** barrows were then constructed. Occasional fine flintwork could be associated with these (as could some of the frequent quartz pebbles, which on other barrow sites are known to have been used as quartz paving, barrow surfacing or as specific deposits).

During the **Mid/Late Iron Age to Romano-British** period a probable hillfort enclosure appears to have been constructed which enclosed the top of the conical hill and made use of the naturally steep north and north-western hillslope in its defences. The eastern edge of the field is defined by an apparently long-lived and typically prehistoric curvilinear boundary (with just discernible external ditch) which fossilises the original eastern side of the hillfort. Originally this extended in to the north-eastern corner of the large field south of the lane (where sub-surface earthworks are believed to exist, on the basis of local field-walker recollections of partially extant remains, dowsing rods and the horse ploughman's observations (comment by Neil Stevenson).

Roundwood Quay Lane may well follow an ancient course which probably ran through the hillfort entrances down towards Roundwood and today's quay and settlement (as suggested by Parkes 2015, 32). Two possible **Romano-British** pieces of pottery were identified from the fieldwalking finds, both from the NE area: a piece of (just possible) amphora, and part of a broken pottery spindle-whorl or possible pot lid. In addition a number of holed and notched slates were found, most of which appear to be deliberately worked rather than accidental. Slates of this type are quite often associated with Iron Age/Romano-British sites, but their function is often enigmatic. The large number of similarly-sized quartz pebbles may be associated with sling shot or games pieces (among other interpretations – see above and below).

Since at least the **Medieval** thirteenth century Kestle Field has been cultivated, as reflected in the historic mapping, the 1946 aerial photograph (Fig 4) and the significant number of 13th to 16th century sherds picked up from all areas, particularly from area SE (and SW). These finds reflect the use of kitchen midden material as a fertiliser. Historically this and surrounding fields were owned and occupied by Tregew, which was first recorded in 1208 and is the probable source of much of this material. Some of the waterworn pebbles found (including some of the quartz) may indicate the use of sea weeds and grits to improve soil drainage and fertility from the Medieval period onwards.

Originally Kestle Field was more than one field. This is reflected in the northern field boundary where a distinct change of angle marks the north-east corner of a former field - area W. However, since the 1845 Feock Tithe Map, it has been included as a part of Kestle Field. Pottery from the subsequent **post-Medieval** period was also collected, dating from the 17th century to the modern day. Largely associated with this (broad)

period were a number of clay tobacco pipes, clay roofing tiles, handmade bricks and occasional glass, china and heavy duty ironwork (including domestic nails, screws, door bolts, hooks and likely cart fittings/ agricultural fixtures). The slag correlates with the slag metallurgy recorded by Parkes (2015, 8) along Roundwood Quay Lane, probably deriving from the nearby rare, late 18th century copper smelting works on the quay (Kirkham 2005, 9). Occasional rounded lumps of lime may reflect soil improvement and the deliberate reduction of soil acidity by using the residue from lime burning, local building works or ballast shipped in from elsewhere. Given the proximity of the quay and the range of industrial works associated with it, including mining-related haulage and boat-building during the 18th and 19th centuries, there is limited scope for the inclusion of occasional imported material within the Kestle Field plough soil adjacent to the lane (although no clear patterning for such was found during the fieldwalking).

3.2 Area SE

Area SE is 1.46 hectares in size and drops down from the apex of the hill towards the south and east. It is the largest area walked and produced a total of 212 finds following initial sorting (giving an average find density of 0.145 finds per m²), of which 106 have been retained. All unused pebbles and recent glass and china have been discarded.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
SE	China	7	Modern	Varied.	
	Clay pipe	6	Post-Med.	Pipe stems 4 x 1600s, 2 x 1700s.	√
	Flintwork	2	M-L.Neo. to BA	Multi-platform flake cores.	√
	Flintwork	1	Mesolithic?	Small soft hammered, narrow bladelet. Distal end missing. Possibly Mesolithic.	√
	Flintwork	1	Neolithic	Probable imported nodule. Large partially retouched former tool with heat damage.	√
SW 83249 40506	Flintwork	1	Bronze Age	Pale, complete, slightly abraded steeply retouched, double-sided knife.	√
	Flint	10	Post-Med. / Modern	Waterworn flint from probable imported gravel deposit. Soil improvement?	√
	Glass	7	Modern	Mixed bottle glass	
	Glass	4	Post-Med.	Probable round/onion-shaped bottle- very dark.	√
	Ironwork	3	Post-Med. / Modern	Two hooks and a miscellaneous piece.	√
	Ironwork	2	Post-Med. / Modern	Miscellaneous broken scraps	
	Lime	3	-	Abraded/rounded hard lumps of lime	
	Pebbles	7	-	Varied geology including water worn shillet (3-9cm)	√
	Pebbles (quartz)	55	-	4 x 6-10cm, 21 x 0.5-2cm and 33 x 2-3cm. May include sling shot.	
SW 83201 40473	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Rim sherd.	√
SW 83225 40501	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Rim sherd.	√
SW 83198 40469	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Rim sherd.	√
SW 83230 40550	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Body / basal sherd. Pale and abraded.	√
SW 83188 40453	Pottery	1	Medieval	Body sherd.	√
SW 83257 40476	Pottery	1	Medieval	Line incised decorated body / neck sherd.	√

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
	Pottery	3	14 th -15 th C.	Body sherds.	✓
SW 83253 40486	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Small abraded red body sherd.	
SW 83298 40463	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Curved red, abraded neck sherd??	✓
SW 83261 40556	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Flat rim sherd from large vessel.	✓
SW 83272 40490	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Abraded very pale flat body sherd.	✓
SW 83279 40499	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Thick abraded rim sherd from large vessel.	✓
SW 83208 40488	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Abraded small pale neck/rim piece?	✓
	Pottery	1	16 th C.	Gritty body sherd.	✓
SW 83264 40497	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Abraded red neck sherd	✓
SW 83200 40478	Pottery	1	Med. / Post-Med.	Small, thin pinkish orange body sherd.	✓
SW 83194 40462	Pottery	1	17 th -18 th C.	Base / body sherd.	✓
SW 83269 40493	Pottery	1	17 th -18 th C.	Small abraded partially glazed body sherd.	✓
SW 83307 40485	Pottery	1	18 th C.	Internal glazed body sherd.	✓
SW 83259 40473	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Body sherd.	✓
SW 83233 40495	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Rim / body sherd. Barnstaple Ware.	✓
SW 83202 40467	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Very small glazed fragment.	✓
	Pottery	18	Post-Med.	Predominantly glazed, very abraded and domestic.	✓
SW 83253 40486	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Thick, glazed, body sherd with small basal part.	✓
SW 83219 40456	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Body sherd.	✓
	Ceramic/ glass?	1	19 th C.	2cm diameter cream coloured sphere = the marble from a Codd bottle.	✓
	Pottery	15	Post-Med. – Mod.	White and decorated	
	Pottery	4	Modern	1 x white china, 2 x stoneware (inc. possible ink well), 1 x land drain.	✓
	Red brick	14	Post-Med. – Mod.	Fragments – all handmade.	
	Shell	1	?	Marine shell fragment.	
	Shillet	5	-	Notched shillet pieces.	✓
	Shillet	1	-	Holed piece – possibly a pendant.	✓
	Slag/ore	12	?Late 18 th C.	Copper smelting waste.	✓
SW 83254 40552	Slag	1	?Late 18 th C.	Copper smelting waste.	✓
	Stone	2	-	Miscellaneous geology – unused.	✓
SW 83202 40467	Stone flake	1	?	Flake from an elongate probable waterworn cobble.	✓
SW 83210 40549	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red tile.	✓
	Tile	1	?	Small fragment of red floor tile.	

3.3 Area NE

Area NE is 1.35 hectares in size and drops down from the apex of the hill towards the north and east. The northern field boundary partially defines a steep natural break of slope that may well have been further exaggerated in the past by rampart modifications, while the eastern edge appears to follow a less marked inner rampart edge. It was the second largest area walked and produced a total of 98 finds following initial sorting (giving an average find density of 0.007 finds per m²), of which 54 have been retained. All unused pebbles and recent glass and china have been discarded.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
NE	Clay pipe	3	16 th /17 th C.	1 x 16 th C. And 2 x 17 th C. Clay pipe stems.	✓
	Flintwork	1	Bronze Age	Small, pale, flat primary pebble flake with nibbled retouch around 2/3rds of periphery. Fine circular scraper.	✓
	Flintwork	1	Prehistoric	Very small exhausted core chunk.	✓
	Flintwork	1	Prehistoric	Very abraded worked piece. Not diagnostic. Tapered.	✓
	Flintwork	1	Prehistoric	Very abraded probably worked piece. Not diagnostic, possibly imported.	✓
SW 83183 40609	Flintwork	1	Neolithic/ BA	Retouched and used pebble multi-purpose tool- knife/scraper	✓
	Ironwork	6	Post-Med. / Modern	Miscellaneous pieces.	✓
	Lime	3	?	Abraded/rounded hard lumps of lime	
	Pebbles (quartz)	22	-	18 x 0.5-3cm and 4 x 6-8cm	
	Pebble (used)	1	-	Utilised quartz pebble.	✓
	Pottery	1	Romano-British???	Possible abraded amphora sherd?	✓
	Pottery	1	Romano-British???	Possible spindle whirl or pot lid fragment.	✓
SW 83202 40622	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Small abraded red body sherd – near neck?	✓
SW 83283 40685	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Probable rim sherd. Abraded.	✓
SW 83295 40623	Pottery	1	13 th -15 th C.	Very abraded red body sherd – from near base or neck/rim.	✓
SW 83253 40620	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Abraded, red body sherd with internal lines.	✓
SW 83198 40576	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Abraded beaded rim sherd with line.	✓
SW 83217 40642	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Post-Medieval base sherd.	✓
SW 83239 40558	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Very abraded body sherd from near base or rim/neck, with internal broad line/finger mark.	✓
SW 83283 40685	Pottery	1	17 th -18 th C.	Small glazed body sherd.	✓
SW 83274 40614	Pottery	2	17 th -18 th C.	1 x glazed stone ware body sherd, 1 x internal glazed body sherd.	✓
	Pottery	3	Post-Med.	Miscellaneous sherds, 1 x larger and glazed, 2 x small red and abraded.	✓
SW 83243 40568	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Small thin flat body sherd?	✓
	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Blue/grey impressed decoration on a Westerwald/steiner sherd.	✓
	Pottery	13	Post-Med. – Mod.	Varied.	✓
SW 83284 40591	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Abraded, small, thin red body sherd.	✓
SW 83181 40563	Pottery	1	Modern	Flat terracotta piece.	✓
	Red brick	15	Post-Med. – Mod.	Fragmentary and largely handmade.	
	Shell	2	?	Marine shell fragment	
	Shillet	2	-	Notched shillet pieces.	✓
	Shillet	1	-	Edge shaped piece.	✓
	Slag/ore	3	?Late 18 th C.	Dark and heavy.	✓

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
	Tile	2	Post-Med. / Modern	1 x fragment of red roof tile and 1 x red floor tile.	
SW 83284 40591	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red clay tile with finger dimple.	✓

3.4 Area SW

Area SW is 1.09 hectares in size and drops down from the apex of the hill towards the south and west. It was the third largest area walked and produced a total of 143 finds following initial sorting (giving an average find density of 0.010 finds per m²), of which 37 have been retained. All unused pebbles and recent glass and china have been discarded.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
SW	Button	1	Post-Med. / Modern	Toggle attachment. Possibly military. Metal with corroded surface design.	✓
	China	11	Modern	Varied.	
	Clay pipe	3	17 th /18 th C.	2 x mid-17 th C., 1 x late 18 th C. Clay pipe stems.	✓
SW 83089 40489	Flintwork	1	Mesolithic??	Heat damaged (and crushed?) core – possibly a Mesolithic blade core.	✓
SW 83095 40469	Flintwork	1	L.Neo. / BA	Abraded pale grey triangular arrowhead.	✓
SW 83137 40500	Flintwork	1	L.Neo. / BA	Burnt and fragmented large former tool – possibly a long flake knife.	✓
SW 83143 40576	Flintwork	1	L.Neo. / BA	Thick cherty core rejuvenation piece.	✓
	Flint pebbles	3	?	Unused.	
	Flint in cement	1	Post-Med. / Modern	Building component – non-local nodular flint.	✓
	Glass	4	Post-Med. / Modern	3 x transparent window glass, 1 x green bottle glass.	
	Glass	1	Post-Med.	Thick greenish brown bottle glass.	✓
	Ironwork	2	Post-Med. / Modern	Stirrup or cart fixture and a door bolt.	✓
	Lime	3	-	Abraded/rounded hard lumps of lime	
	Pebbles (used?)	4	?	1 x smoothed? quartz, 1 x grey – polished/smoothed?, 2 x split.	✓
	Pebbles (quartz)	70	?	1 x 8cm long, 26 x 0.5-2cm and 43 x 2-3cm. May include sling shot.	
SW 83150 40486	Pottery	2	13 th -14 th C.	Small, , very abraded body sherds.	✓
SW 83147 40472	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	A small, pale, very abraded body sherd.	✓
SW 83127 40465	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	A small, pale, very abraded body sherd.	✓
SW 83142 40472	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Red abraded rim sherd.	✓
SW 83142 40513	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Thin, pale red abraded body sherd.	✓
	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Thin, pale red abraded body sherd.	✓
	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Thin, pale red abraded body sherd.	✓
SW 83116 40442	Pottery	1	15 th -16 th C.	Cream making dish – rim sherd.	✓
SW 83111 40436	Pottery	1	16 th C.	Small thin, flat abraded body sherd.	✓
SW 83110 40437	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Very abraded body sherd with two very shallow, external parallel lines.	✓
SW 83138 40463	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Post-Medieval abraded red body and	✓

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
				base sherd.	
SW 83167 40452	Pottery	1	18 th -19 th C.	Very abraded, very thinly glazed rim sherd.	✓
SW 83148 40448	Pottery	1	18 th -19 th C.	Thick, pale red abraded probable rim sherd.	✓
SW 83178 40497	Pottery	1	Post-med.	Abraded pale red body sherd.	✓
	Pottery	3	Post-Med.	Miscellaneous body sherds – 1 x glazed.	
SW 83173 40456	Pottery	1	Modern?	A piece of ?modern flowerpot rim.	✓
	Red brick	9	Post-Med. - Mod.	Fragments – all hand-made c16th century, except 1 x very modern aerated brick.	
	Shell	2	?	Marine shell fragments (1 = oyster)	
	Shillet	1	?	Holed piece	✓
	Slag	4	?Late 18 th C.	Copper smelting waste?	✓
	Tile	2	Post-Med. / Modern	Handmade	✓
SW 83172 40456	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red clay tile.	✓
SW 83100 40448	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red clay tile.	✓
SW 83110 40441	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red clay tile.	✓
	Tile	2	Post-Med.	Red clay tile	✓
SW 83145 40446	Tile	1	?	Red clay ridge tile.	✓
	Burnt stone	2	Post-Med. / Modern	Burnt stone?	✓
	Wire/rod	1	Modern		

3.5 Area NW

Area SW is 0.46 hectares in size and drops down from the apex of the hill towards the north-west, stopping at the northern field boundary and top of slope. The boundary probably marks the former rampart alignment, which makes use of the very steep natural slope at this point. It was the smallest area walked and produced a total of just 19 finds following initial find sorting (giving an average find density of 0.004 finds per m²), of which 7 have been retained. All unused pebbles and recent glass and china have been discarded.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
NW	Quartz crystals	2	-	6cm+ long quartz crystal	
	Flint pebble	1	-	Large flint pebble.	✓
	Ironwork	1	Post-Med. / Modern	Large hand forged nail.	✓
	Lime	2	?	Abraded/rounded hard lumps of lime	
	Pebbles	2	-	Miscellaneous 6cm + size. Unused.	
	Pebbles (quartz)	5	-	2-3cm size.	
	Pottery	1	14 th -15 th C.	Small non-glazed rim.	
SW 83151 40532	Pottery	1	15 th -16 th C.	Rim sherd	✓
SW 83127 40540	Pottery	1	18 th C.	Internally glazed, base/body sherd	✓
	Pottery	4	Post-Med.	Miscellaneous pottery. 4 x glazed.	✓
SW 83136 40563	Pottery	1	Post-Med.	Body sherd.	✓
	Pottery	6	Post-Med. – Mod.	White and decorated or coloured.	

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
	Red brick	4	Post-Med. – Mod.	1 x modern, 3 x handmade.	
	Shell	2	?	Marine shell fragment.	
	Shillet	1	Prehistoric	Edge shaped shillet piece.	✓
	Shillet	1	Uncertain	Large shillet slate with lines.	✓
	Shillet	1	Prehistoric?	Notched piece.	✓
	Slag/ore	1	?Late 18 th C.	Copper smelting waste?	✓

3.6 Area W

The western area is positioned outside the probable main enclosure, and is the second smallest area walked at 0.66 hectares. Aerial mapping for 2005 shows a broad pale, dry or stone-rich band running south from the kink in the northern boundary which might suggest the original rampart line for the western side of the hillfort. A total of 98 finds were looked at following initial sorting (giving an average find density of 0.014 finds per m²), of which 30 have been retained.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
W	Animal bones	2	Modern	No butchery marks. Probable animal prey.	
	Flintwork	1	Neolithic / BA	Large pale grey flint cobble multi-platform core.	✓
	Flint	2	Post-Med?	Very abraded, broken/worked flints. Possibly imported/soil improvement?	✓
	Flint pebbles	2	Post-Med?	Small and unused and very abraded. Soil improvement?	✓
	Glass	3	Recent	Thick clear bottle glass.	
	Ironwork	1	Post-Med. / Modern	Hand forged nail.	✓
	Lime	1	?	Abraded/rounded hard lumps of lime	
	Pebbles (quartz)	62	-	59 x 0.5-3cm and 3 x 8-12cm	
SW 83054 40464	Pottery	1	Medieval (pre 1500)	Sagging base / body sherd. St Germans Ware.	✓
SW 83022 40471	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Body sherd.	✓
SW 83022 40476	Pottery	1	13 th -14 th C.	Body sherd.	✓
SW 83050 40460	Pottery	1	16 th -17 th C.	Handle scar? On long body sherd.	✓
SW 83007 40442	Pottery	1	18 th -19 th C.	Probable rim sherd.	✓
	Pottery	5	Post-Med.	1 x white china, 2 x 18 th -19 th C., 2 x 16 th -17 th C.	✓
	Red brick	2	Post-Med. / Modern	Handmade red brick lumps.	✓
	Pottery	1	Modern	Glazed pipe	✓
	Shillet	6	Prehistoric?	Notched shillet piece.	✓
	Slag/ore	2	?Late 18 th C.	Copper smelting waste etc.	✓
	Split pebbles	2	-	Split quartz pebbles.	✓
SW 83072 40468	Tile	1	Post-Med.	Red clay ridge tile – Bridgewater type – ballast, but used too?	✓

3.7 Unstratified finds

The following 11 mixed finds (9 of which have been retained) came from the field as a whole.

Area	Object	No.	Date	Comment	Kept
U/S	Clay pipe	2	Early 18 th C.	Clay pipe stems	✓
	Flint	1	-	Large pebble, possibly used as a chopper (but barely modified).	✓
	Ironwork	1	Post-Med. / Modern	Uncertain	✓
	Ironwork	1	Modern	Screw	
	Pebble (quartz)	1	-	Unused	
	Pottery	1	14 th C.	Small abraded red body sherds	✓
	Pottery	3	Post-Med.		✓
	Shillet	1	-	Opposed or double-notched shillet.	✓

4 Summary of significance and potential

The Kestle Field hillfort enclosure had until recently been largely lost. The site has never been developed and with the exception of long-term sporadic cultivation, which has taken place on and off since the medieval period, it has been largely left alone.

Its northern and eastern field boundaries appear to have fossilised the original internal enclosing bank. The remains of an external ditch can just be seen flanking the outer side of the eastern boundary, while the northern and north-western boundary has what appears to be an enhanced, natural external slope. Today's lane to Roundwood may well follow an early, potentially prehistoric route through the site's original entrance ways, with the enclosure extending south of the lane.

The Kestle Field site's relationship to the designated Roundwood multiple enclosure site (SM 32940), located less than half a kilometre to the east, is uncertain. It is assumed that the Roundwood and Kestle Field enclosures must at some point have overlapped and been contemporary, but how the sites worked is uncertain. Clearly they fulfilled different functions given their very different settings and appearances. The topographically lower, more complicated multi-enclosure Roundwood site presumably monitored or controlled the river and creek, while the higher, more exposed and potentially simpler (certainly less well preserved in terms of earthworks) Kestle Field site may well have monitored dryland access to Roundwood and controlled and overlooked the surrounding area or territory. Views from the top of Kestle Field are wide ranging and extend out in all directions.

It may be that one had a more domestic, settlement-related role while the other had a more mercantile, industrial or defensive function.

There is clearly scope for a very considerable range of further investigation with regard the future use and management of the Roundwood peninsula as a whole. It may be that the Kestle Field site is key to understanding the late prehistoric, Romano-British and potentially the Early Medieval development of the area prior to its better understood Medieval use and ownership.

5 Recommendations

As stated in Parkes' 2015 assessment report, the possible (now considered more than probable) Kestle Field hillfort site should potentially be regarded as of near equal significance to the already known and designated Roundwood multiple enclosure fort. Given the sparsity of diagnostically Iron Age/Romano-British pottery found during fieldwalking (the result of loss through long-term ploughing) absolute proof is still elusive. However, a combination of visible ephemeral features, some of the finds, plus

comments and experiences reported by various people (referred to above) does render the site's identification more likely.

As a result, the following recommendations and suggestions have been made to aid the future management and understanding of this probably significant site and guide potential future designation.

5.1 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey across Kestle Field could:

- Confirm or disprove the presence of three possible Bronze Age barrows, plus any associated pits or encircling ditches.
- Confirm and locate the course of the hillfort enclosure's western bank and ditch.
- Identify any internal enclosure features such as pits and ditches possibly associated with internal structures.
- Identify and locate any entrance-associated ditches and/or terminal pits. At the moment these are assumed to be in the vicinity of the Lane.
- Identify any external features radiating out from the western side of the site.

A geophysical survey of (part or ideally all of) the southern New Close field could:

- Establish the former position of known earthworks in its north-eastern corner - correlating with possible entrance works and/or establishing the course of the southern side of the site.
Note: given that the name of the field to the immediate south-east is South Kestle, it is likely that much/some of the intervening boundary between it and New Close defines the original site perimeter earthworks (see Tithe Map, Fig 3).
- Identify further associated features in the southern side of the site.

A geophysical survey of (part or ideally all of) the eastern fields of Fox Park and North Kestle could:

- Confirm or disprove the presence of a possible Bronze Age barrow in Fox Park, plus any associated pits or ditches.
- Identify more firmly the presence of an external ditch running along the immediate eastern edge of the whole Kestle Field boundary. Parkes' photograph (2015, fig 46) appears to clearly suggest a flanking ditch on the horizon.
- Identify and locate external features in the form of outlying fields, tracks or settlements etc.

5.2 Fieldwalking (with metal detecting?)

A further programme of fieldwalking in some/all of the surrounding fields could be useful in terms of further understanding the use of surrounding fields since the prehistoric period. A programme of monitored metal detecting might add to the fieldwalking results (particularly around the potential entrance areas where any ditch terminals might include specific deposits).

5.3 Archaeological walk-over survey

An archaeological walk-over survey of Kestle Field and the surrounding fields could record the hillfort more accurately and potentially identify further features surviving as either upstanding remains within boundaries, ephemeral earthworks, or perhaps ploughed out stonework.

Note: there were patches of larger stones visible within the Kestle Field ploughsoil which might correlate with previously disturbed subsurface features, and the 2005 aerial photograph (not included) does suggest a paler, more stony plough surface separating area W from areas NW and SW (ie the possible western hillfort enclosure edge).

5.4 Ongoing, small-scale watching briefs

A watching brief should obviously be carried out during any and all excavation works in the vicinity of the potential earthworks, including any drainage works, gate widening, extensive boundary/gate repair works or significant lane works (including drainage or surfacing)etc.

Though currently undesignated, the site should be treated as a scheduled monument. This will ensure that no information is lost that might enhance our understanding of the site.

5.5 And finally an ideal or wish-list suggestion

Should further detail be required in order to adequately understand, protect and manage the immediate site and wider area, a short programme of evaluative test pitting or trenching could hugely help, particularly with regard defining:

- the exact site extent
- the depth and quality of surviving remains
- the character and function of the site
- the date of the site

This could be very focussed, minimal in extent and would be best if closely tied in to geophysical survey results.

6 References

Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall Landscape Assessment*: Truro.

Kirkham, G., 2005. *Roundwood Quay, Feock, Cornwall*. CCC Report no. 2005R019: Truro

Parkes, C., 2015. *Lane to Roundwood Quay, Feock, Cornwall*. CAU Report no. 2015R067

Tithe Apportionment Map and Schedule, 1845. Parish of Feock.

7 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146671**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin:

G:\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites R\Roundwood fieldwalk 2017

Digital photographs:

R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Roundwood-Kestle Field fieldwalk 2017

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-283971



Fig 5 Top - Recent (drone) aerial photograph taken showing Kestle Field from the northeast giving a very clear impression of the former enclosure area (supplied by National Trust Lead Ranger Neil Stevenson. Bottom - Walking area SE first thing – before the morning mist has burnt off!



Fig 6 Area SW in the process of being field walked (top and bottom).



Fig 7 A well-earned rest (top), followed by more field walking under a beautiful blue spring sky (bottom).



Fig 8 Scanning the ground for finds (top), and the collection of a mixed range of material in to area bags (bottom).



Fig 9 Tea break, map gazing and local recollections (top), followed by more field walking – note the red flag for marking unglazed pottery finds (bottom).

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall,
TR1 3AY

(01872) 323603
enquiries@cau.org.uk
www.cau.org.uk

