

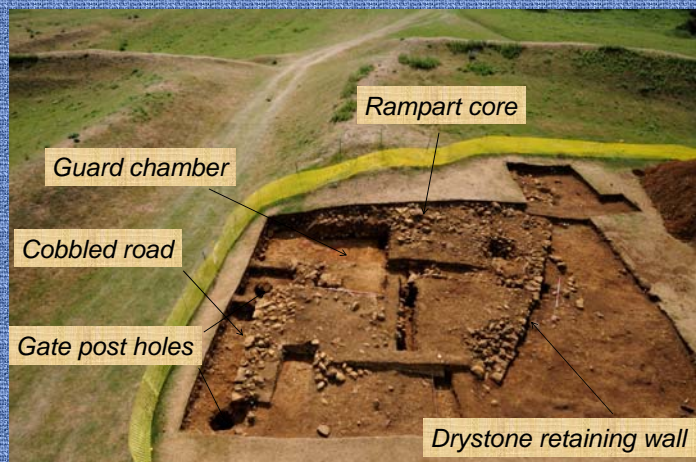
# Burrough Hill Hillfort: Excavations 2010



## Trench 1

A large area of the entrance rampart was examined in this trench, revealing much about construction methods and the gradual development of the entrance. The rampart was made of a series of stone and clay layers, showing a sequence of expansion over time.

The rampart layers were held in place by well-built drystone walls made from locally quarried ironstone. The northern wall also acted as one side of the hillfort entrance passage. Two deep post holes in this part of the trench would have held huge timber gates and supported a wooden walkway above the entrance. A recessed room was built into the rampart and may have acted as a guard chamber. Preserved within this room were intact Iron Age floors and hearth remains.



Recording within guard chamber



Preserved Iron Age hearth

A range of pottery and animal bones were found at Trench 1 indicating mid-late Iron Age activity between the 4th-1st centuries BC. All of these finds will help build a picture of life at the hillfort during the Iron Age and beyond. Pottery and bone, as well as metalworking and weaving tools were found in the guard room, hinting at some of the activities that took place within. A pit behind the rampart also produced a bone pin, pottery and the bones of sheep, cattle and pig, showing some of the species the hillfort inhabitants kept and ate.



Revealing the entrance rampart construction



Entrance gate post during excavation



Recording stone rampart tumble layers



Drystone walling on the edge of the rampart



Excavating the roundhouse gully

## Trench 2

This trench examined a section of the rampart and the immediate interior on the northern side of the hillfort. The archaeology was well-preserved because it lay beneath a medieval plough headland that had protected the underlying remains.

The northern part of the trench, adjacent to the rampart earthworks, contained an extensive layer of rubble tumble which had accumulated as the hillfort gradually fell into disrepair. Pottery from within the rubble and associated layers will help to understand when this process began.

A refuse layer rich in Roman pottery finds indicated intermittent activity on Burrough Hill between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. The pottery was dominated by a range of drinking vessels so it may be that in the Roman period, the hillfort was used for festivities at certain times of the year. Some sense of the Iron Age activity in this part of the hillfort was also revealed. A laid cobble surface was probably part of a track or yard area. Part of a roundhouse also indicated occupation in the lee of the ramparts. A number of pits and an area of metalworking waste were probably associated with this house.

