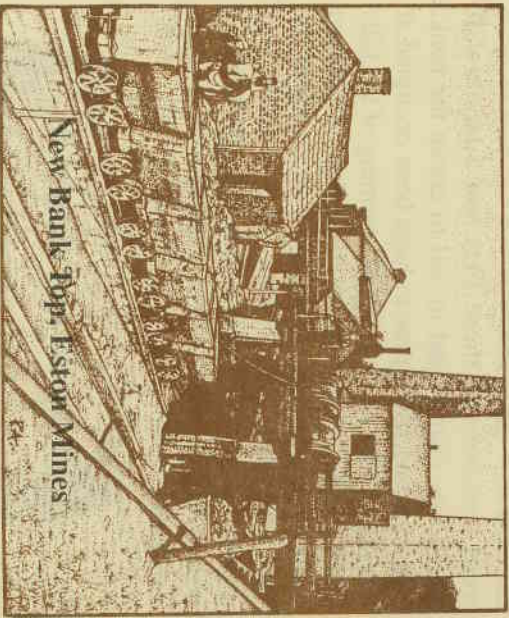


IRONSTONE INDUSTRY

The Eston Hills had become an area of moorland by the end of the Iron Age and it wasn't until the 19th century that people were again attracted to the resources they offered. In 1850 the Main Seam of Ironstone was discovered at Eston and quarrying began immediately, by the end of that year 187,950 tons of ore had been mined and the basis for the industrial development of Middlesbrough had been laid. The impact of the



mining on the north face of the hills can be clearly seen from Teesside and there are many readily identifiable remains of this nationally important industry on the Hills. The mines were worked using the pillar and bord method of driving tunnels or bord upto 6yds wide at right angles leaving a block of stone c 15 x 30 yds standing to support the roof. The most productive of the mines was that at Eston which in one week in 1883 produced 29,456 tons of ore and the railway inclines which linked this mine to the sorting areas at California at the foot of the Hills and the Ironworks on the banks of the Tees can still be seen despite the mine having finished working in 1949.

ESTON HILLS HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Langbaurch Borough Council, Cleveland County Council and the Countryside Commission all support the designation of the Eston Hills as a Historic Landscape, and are seeking to improve its management. The Countryside Commission through the Cleveland Community Forest are willing to consider Countryside Stewardship agreements with landowners on the Eston Hills in order to encourage the continued survival of the historic landscape. Their address is set out below.

Cleveland Community Forest
Stewart Park, The Grove, Marton
Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 6AR
Tel. 0642 300716
Fax. 0642 300715

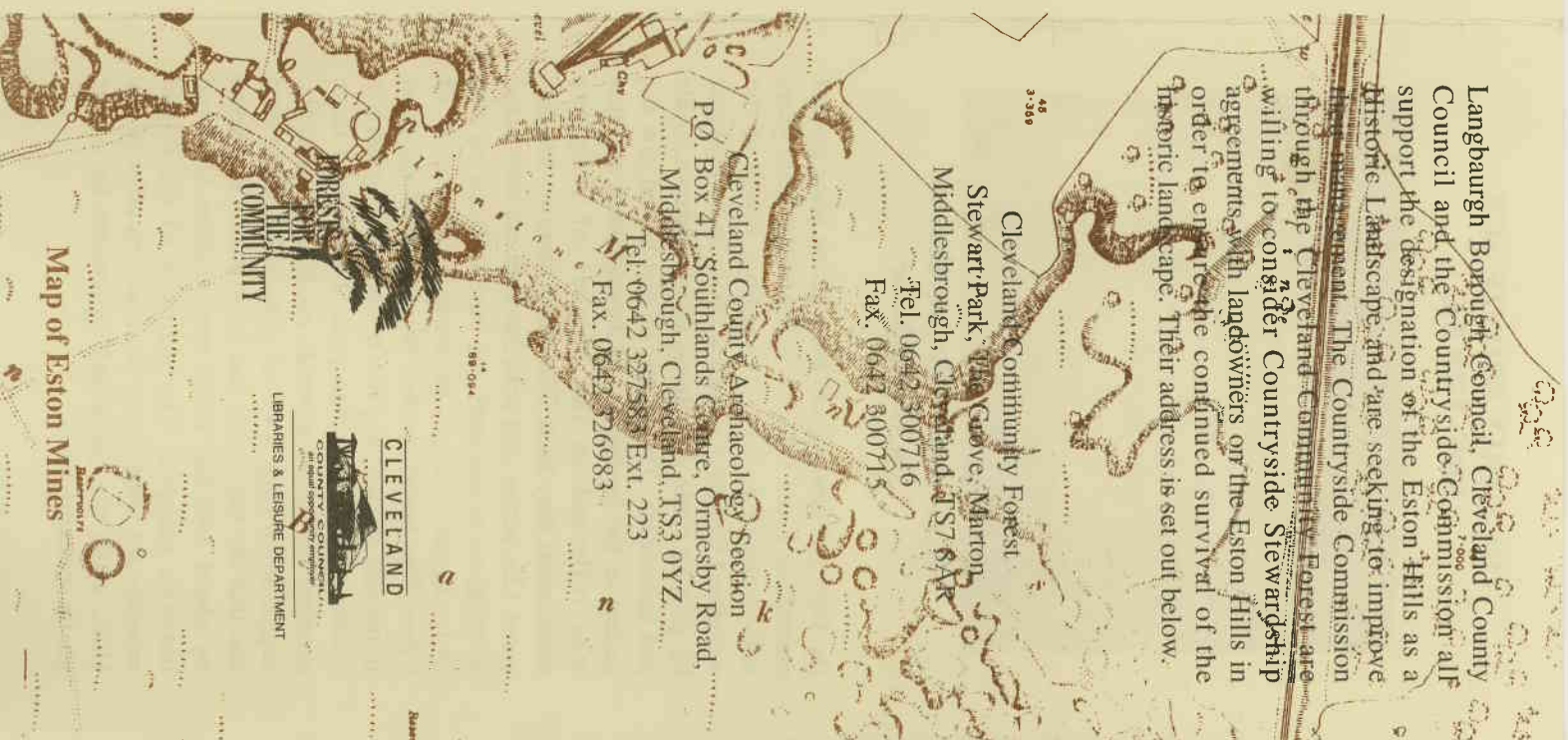
Cleveland County Archaeology Section
P.O. Box 41, Southlands Centre, Ormesby Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS3 0YZ
Tel: 0642 327583 Ext. 223
Fax: 0642 326983



Eston Nab Iron Age Hillfort

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE ESTON HILLS

The Eston Hills are an outlier of the sandstone Cleveland Hills, overlooking and dominating the Tees estuary, with steep slopes to the north and more gentle ones to the south. There are a variety of different habitats on the hills ranging from moorland in the west to woodland and agricultural land in the east and towards the south. Within this landscape are the remains of over 4000 years of human activity.



Map of Eston Mines

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ESTON HILLS

The Eston Hills have recently been designated as a historic landscape by Langbaurgh Borough Council on the basis of the survival of a significant part of the landscapes of the Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and the remains of the Ironstone industry of the 19th and 20th centuries. These landscapes have survived mainly because the area has not been intensively farmed or developed like much of Teesside. Many of the sites on the Eston Hills are legally protected and it is hoped that through sensitive management the remainder will survive for many years to come.

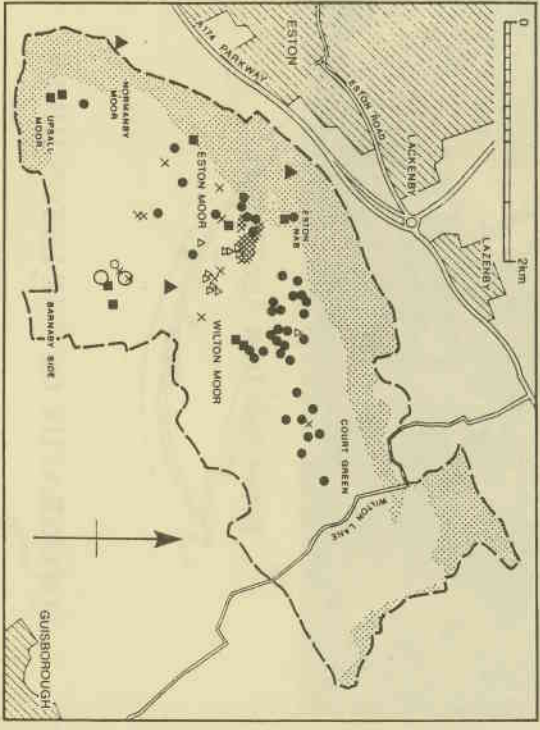
THE EARLY BRONZE AGE (2000 - 1400 B.C.)



Excavation of Round Barrow on Wilton Moor

LATE BRONZE AGE/IRON AGE (1400 - 600 B.C.)

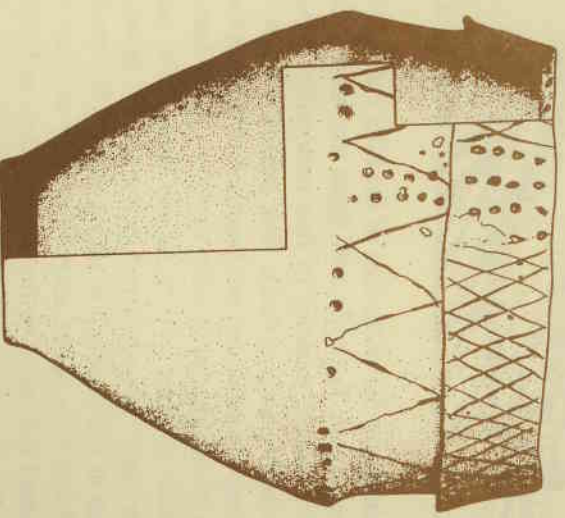
Farming expanded to take in most of the hills under the pressure of population expansion. The round barrows were ignored as more extensive field systems were developed and defended settlements were established. Eston Nab was one of these, and the remains of a Bronze Age palisade has been excavated on the highest part of the site and traces of round houses were found inside the enclosure. In the mid 5th century BC the site was enlarged and the defences which can still be seen were constructed, these first had a stone wall which was later buried in soil to create the bank. The site does not appear to have been occupied at this time and it is clear that the farming of the hills had led to erosion of the soils and that the farmers had had to move on to the heavier clay soils of the Tees Lowlands. The Hillfort at Eston Nab was probably used for ceremonial and defensive purposes, dominating as it does the Lowlands.



BRONZE AGE - ● BURIAL MOUND
 LATE BRONZE / IRON AGE - ▲ CAIRN
 INDUSTRIAL REMAINS - ■ ENCLOSURES
 ▲ MINE
 XX FIELD SYSTEMS
 ■ SETTLEMENT
 ... EXTENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

Eston Hills 'Historic Landscape'

By 1400 BC farming had been taking place on and around the Eston Hills for at least a thousand years and populations were expanding. Much of the woodland had been chopped down to be replaced by grazing cattle and sheep, round barrows, fields and farmsteads. The people of this period saw the sacred in the landscape all around them and this was reflected in the number of religious monuments they built. The round barrows, mounds some 12m across and upto 2m high not only acted as religious monuments and burial places but also as territorial markers defining the territories of tribes. The burials within them were of the most important people and the bodies were generally cremated and placed in pots. There are a large number of burial mounds on the Eston Hills, suggesting a high level of population of the area and that the tree cover had been largely destroyed by about 1400BC when construction of round barrows stopped. The majority of the burial mounds are sited along the northern edge of the Hills, while the fields and settlements lie on the gentle southern slopes.



Collared Urn from a barrow on Eston Moor