

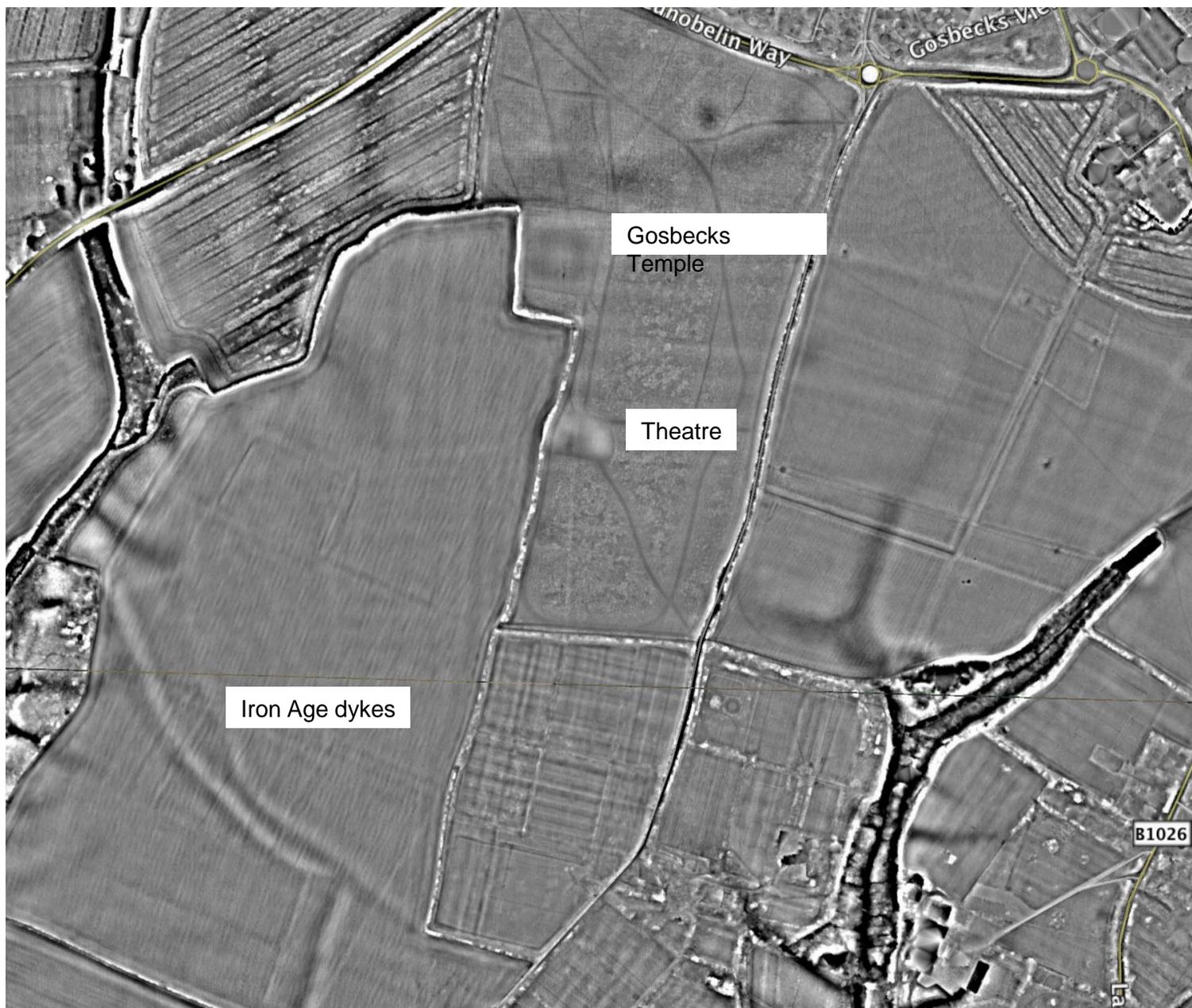
Local 'stay at home' archaeologists discover unknown historic sites using cutting edge technology

Colchester Archaeological Group

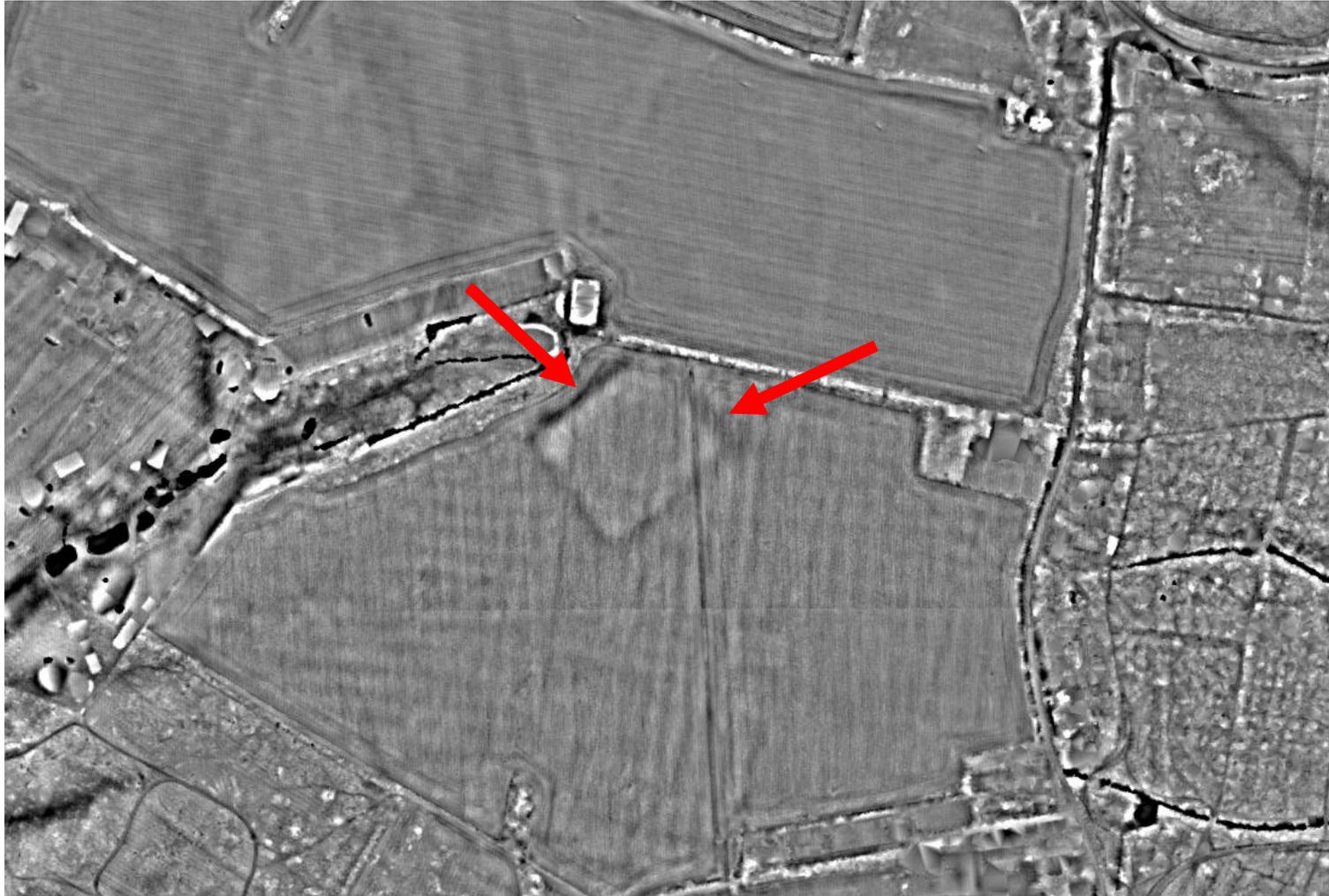
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Illustrations

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The Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Southwest Colchester. The lidar image processing enhances small-scale features and is overlaid on Google Earth. Depressed areas are darker grey, raised areas lighter. The central mound within the Temple site is not obvious on the ground.



New discovery. Previously-unknown rectangular feature outside Colchester. It has a slightly raised interior within a boundary ditch.



3D screenshot of Lidar model of the unidentified raised enclosure, with Google Earth surface texture overlaid, showing faint cropmarks. The height is greatly exaggerated – in reality it is raised only a few centimetres above the surroundings.

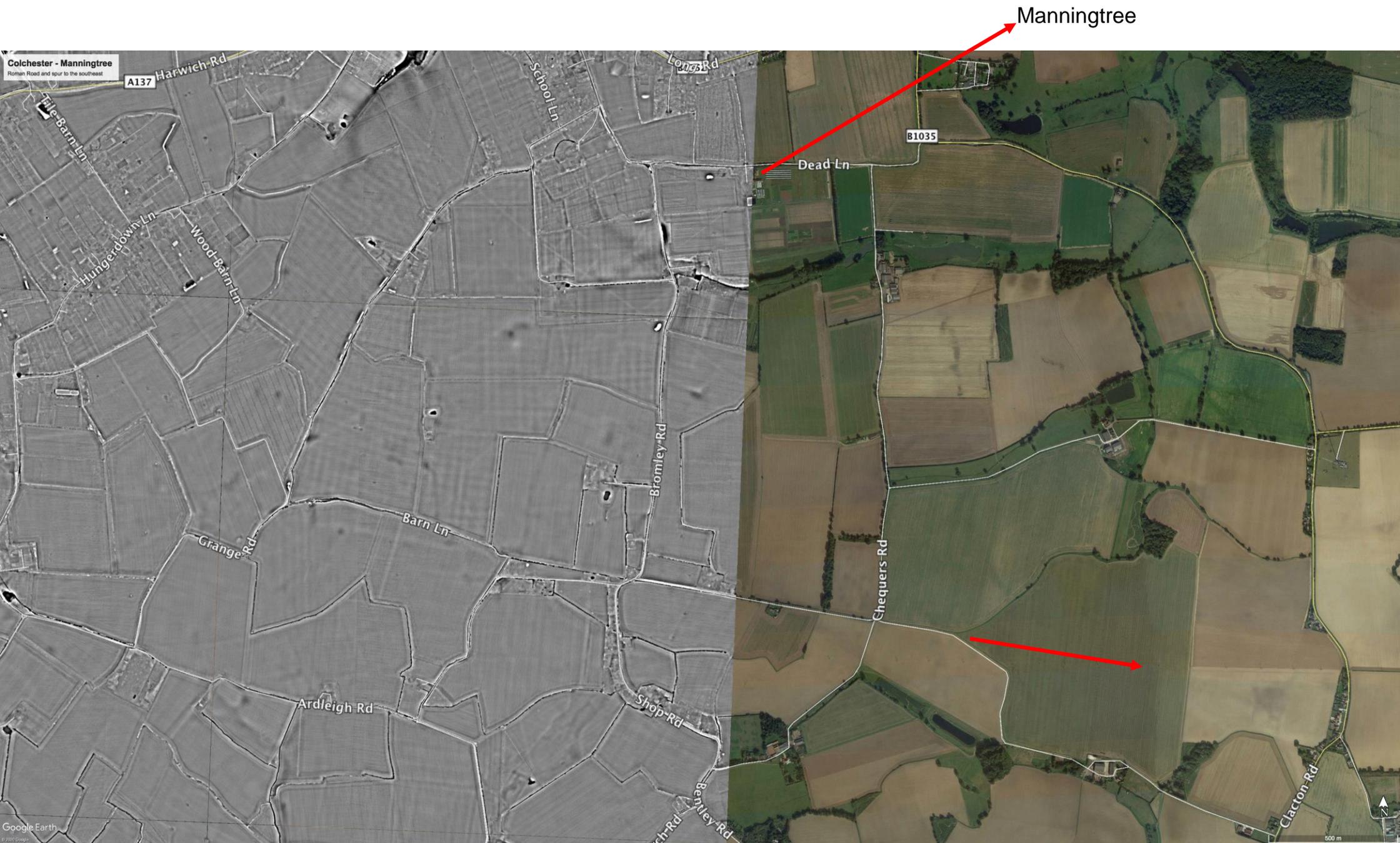


3D screenshot of Lidar model of the unidentified raised enclosure, with Google Earth surface texture overlaid, showing faint cropmarks. The height is greatly exaggerated – in reality it is raised only a few centimetres above the surroundings.
[Alternative, highlighting enclosure]



Pitchbury Ramparts, Horkesley Heath. This was originally a double-ditched and banked rampart, enclosing an oval area, and is one of only a small number of late Iron Age hillforts known in this part of the country. Now only the northern section of the rampart survives intact, hidden in Pitchbury Woods but easily detected by Lidar in dense undergrowth. The particularly valuable feature of the process is its ability also to detect the very slight remains that have survived intense cultivation in fields to the south east. See also Colchester Heritage Explorer, <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/Monument/MCC7048> and Colchester Archaeological Report 12, *Camulodunum 2*, page 138 (Colchester Archaeological Trust, 1995).

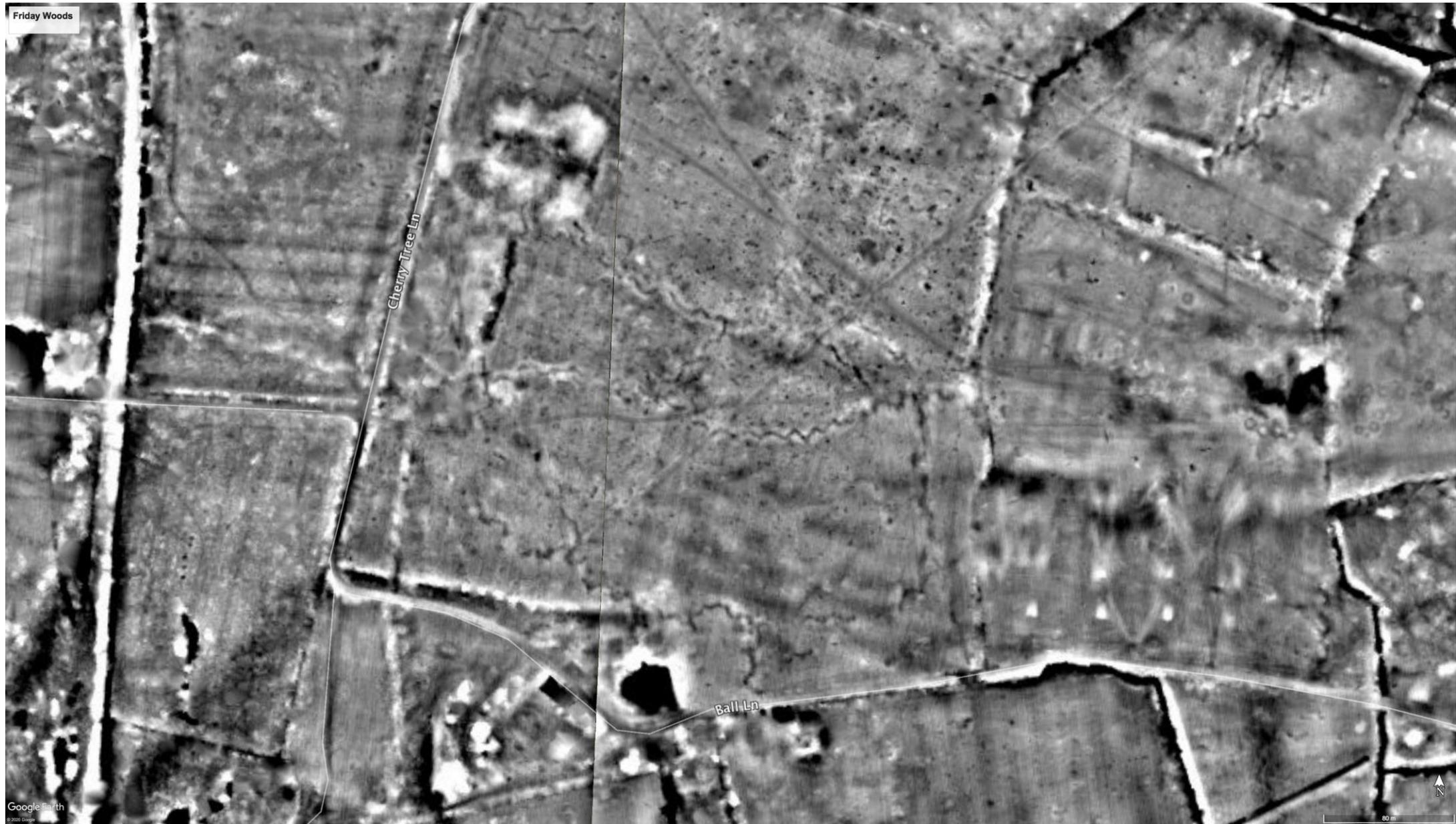
Pitchbury Ramparts is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. See: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1019959>



Roman Roads. Partial lidar overlay on Google Earth. The well-known Colchester to Manningtree Roman Road and a spur heading east towards Horsleycross Street, showing as faint light grey lines. A section of the spur is still followed by a modern lane.



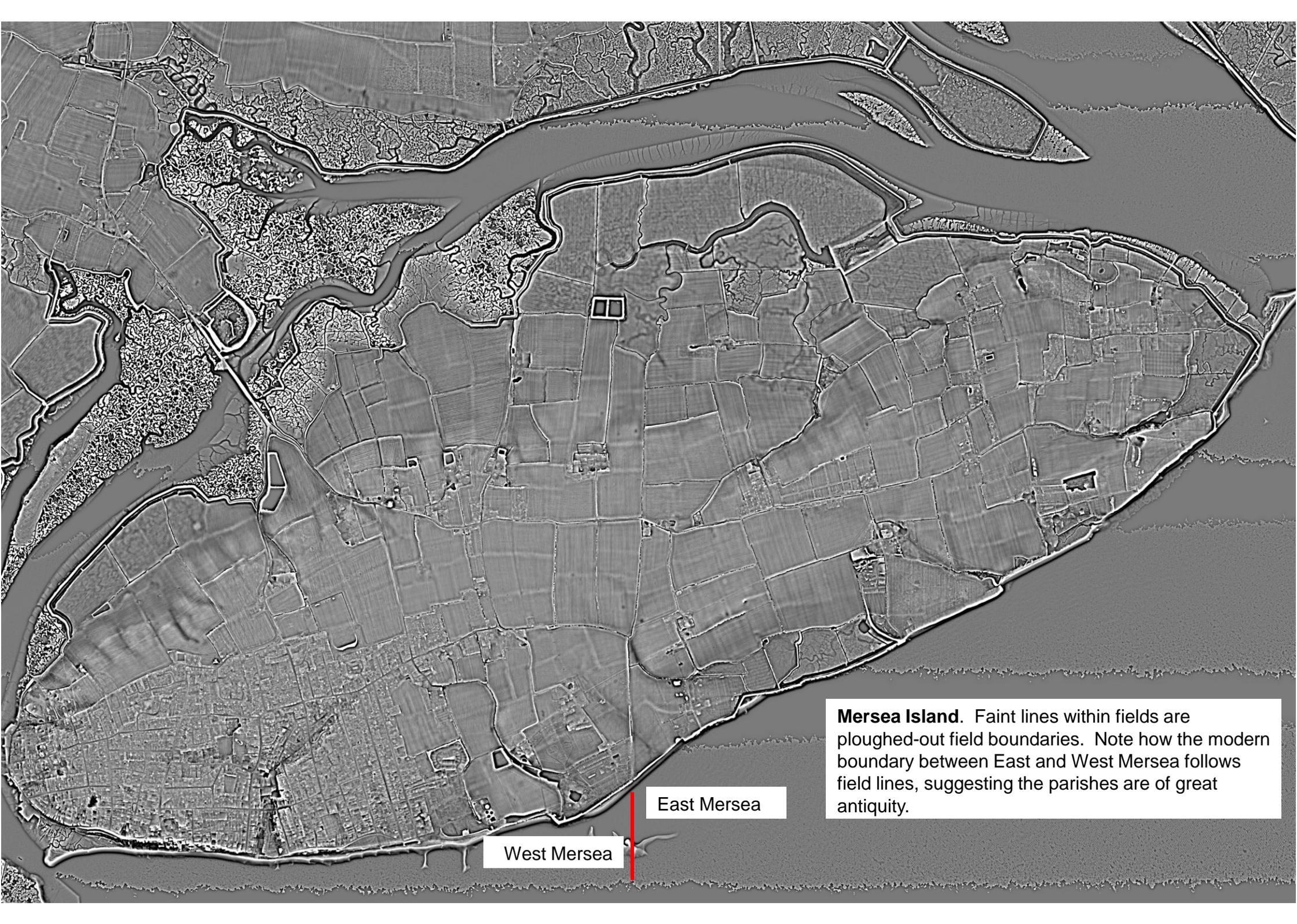
The Redoubt. East of Mersea Road, Colchester. Substantial earthworks forming the remains of a six-sided enclosure, The Redoubt is now hidden in dense woodland. Hints of a star-shaped outline suggest it may have originated as a fort during the Siege of Colchester in 1648. However, the earthworks have not been securely dated and they could be the remains of a WWI practice facility. For further information see: <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/Monument/MCC8959>.



Friday Woods. Part of the late Iron Age Berechurch Dyke (left, white line) and WW1 or 2 practice trenches (faint zig-zag patterns, centre).



Military activity south of Abbot's Road, Colchester. Note also the underlying field boundary patterns showing as light and dark grey lines. These are visible over much of the countryside, and reflect the post-WW2 practice of "grubbing-out" hedges.



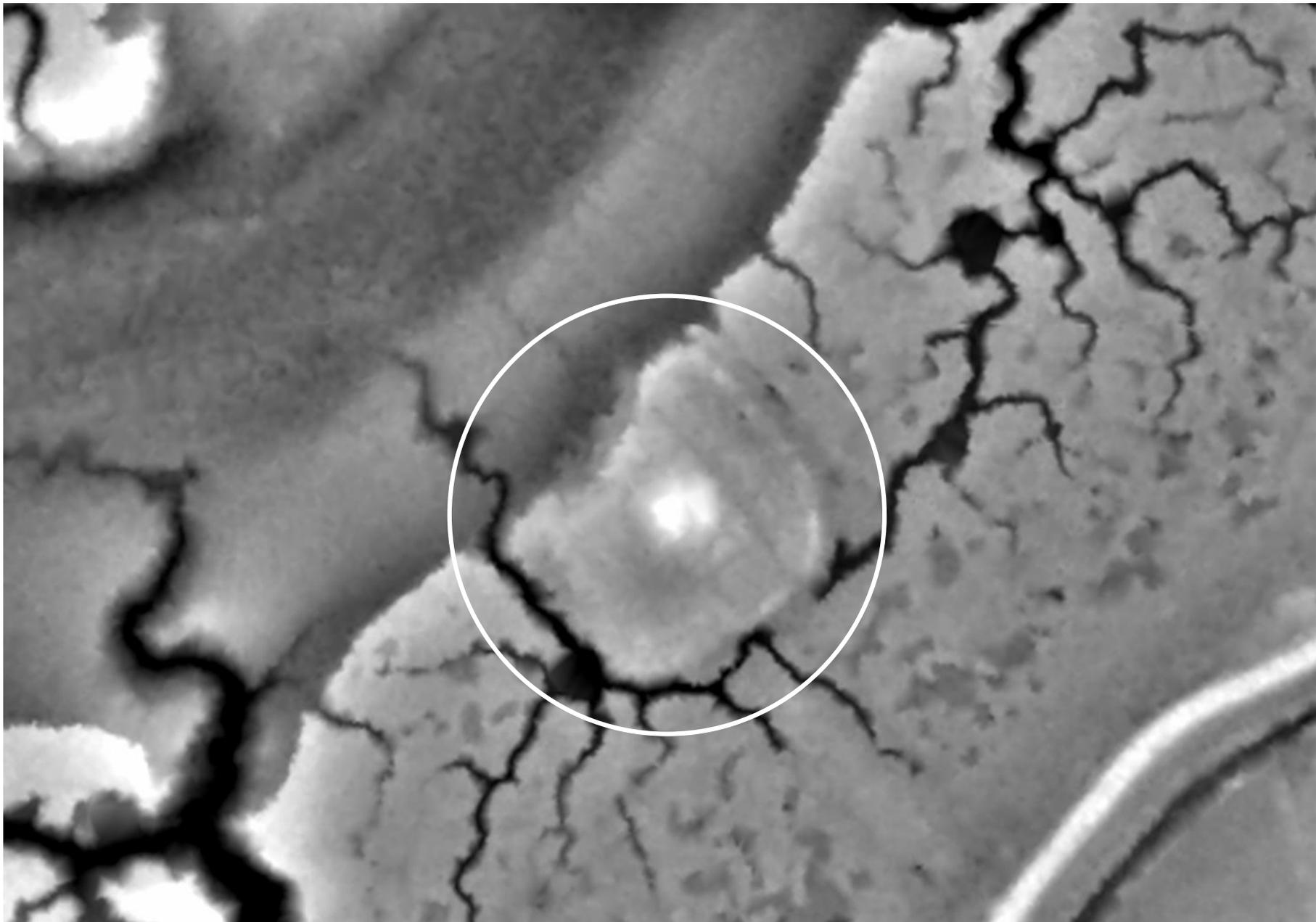
West Mersea

East Mersea

Mersea Island. Faint lines within fields are ploughed-out field boundaries. Note how the modern boundary between East and West Mersea follows field lines, suggesting the parishes are of great antiquity.



Coastal enclosures near Langenhoe. Close-up view showing channels and three banked enclosures, probably associated with salt making. The southern one especially has a perfectly level interior with low bank and could have been a shallow evaporation pond. They lie on former salt marsh now protected by the sea wall. The two larger ones appear on old maps of the area.



Banked enclosure and Red Hill, West Mersea. A well known landmark, this site is located on the saltings bordering the Pyefleet Channel. About 45 m wide, it lies about 970 m east of The Strood. Red Hills are most likely Roman or earlier, used for salt making over a long period. This is one of a large number of similar sites on the Essex coastal marshes. See also *The Red Hills of Essex*, Colchester Archaeological Group 1990, ISBN 0950390518. High-resolution image from Lidar sampled at 0.5 m spacing. Further information is recorded in the Colchester Heritage Explorer: <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/Monument/MCC8116>



The Pyefleet Red Hill, as photographed in 2019 from a drone, by Jim Pullen of West Mersea. Inset: closeup of the seaward edge at lower left, showing build-up of debris from the crudely-fired red terracotta pottery vessels or 'briquetage' used to evaporate brine in the salt making process, and which gives these sites their name. Like the Langenhoe examples, its interior is at a slightly higher level than the surrounding saltings and it has a raised outer bank and possible outer ditch.