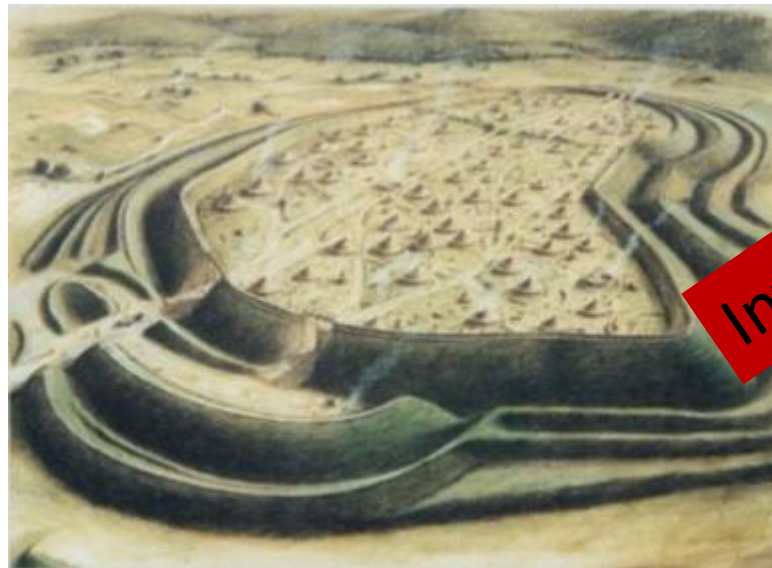


Can you solve the mystery of the 52 bodies at Maiden Castle?



Investigation

LO: To learn about Maiden castle Hillfort

# Where is Maiden Castle?

- <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/maiden-castle/>

- Maiden Castle in the south of England not far from the English Channel.

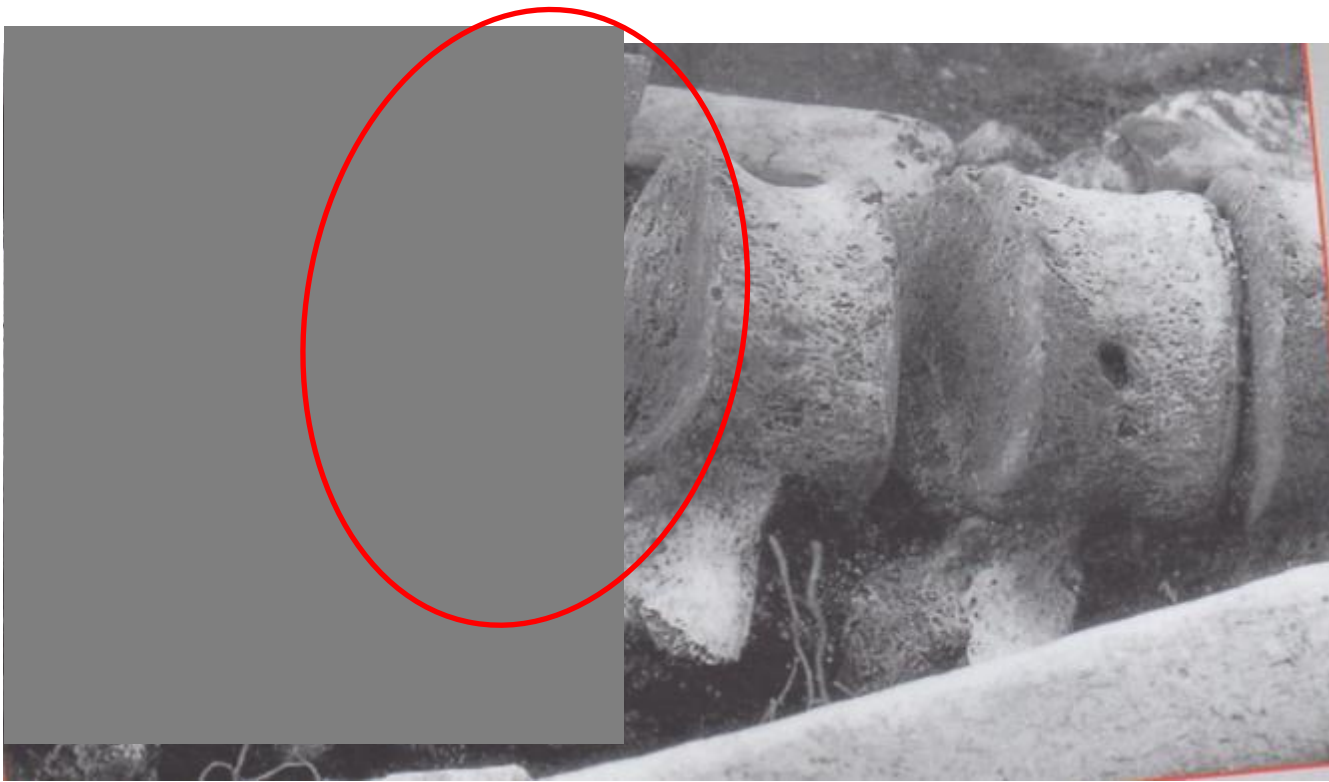


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# What was found there?





# What you need to know

- ① Maiden Castle is the largest Iron Age Hill Fort in Britain and is in Dorset near the south coast.
- ② Hill forts developed in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. There are 31 in Dorset.
- ③ The enormous ramparts and ditches would have been dug out by hand, to provide refuge in times of crisis.
- ④ It is clear from sites like Maiden Castle that things were far from peaceful across Britain long before the Romans invaded in AD43. Tribes would have been frequently at war with their neighbours.
- ⑤ When the Romans invaded in AD43 they went straight to crush the tribes of England.

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# So, over to you..*Time Teams*

I want a full report on my desk by the end of the lesson!

What happened and WHY?

Who was responsible?

I want answers!!

1

Evidence of what happened when the Romans arrived at Maiden Castle was uncovered by the British archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler, who spent four summers excavating on the site between 1934 and 1937.

He dated the finds to about AD 50.

Archaeologists excavated 52 bodies, 14 of them with wounds made by weapons, mostly from sword cuts on the skull.

2





## Source 3

A Roman writer once said

“The Britons are war-mad, courageous and love fighting. They fight battles even if they have nothing on their side but their own strength and courage.”

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# Local tribes

4



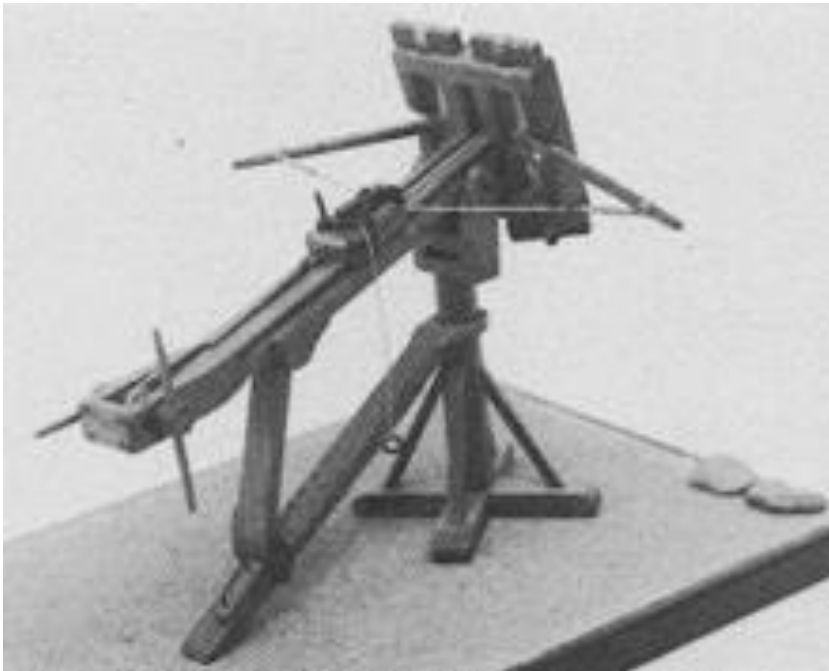
Maiden  
Castle

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# The Romans invaded in AD 43

5

They had very advanced equipment like the ballista which could fire bolts over long distances.





2 of the 52 skeletons were **carefully** buried alongside grave goods including legs of meat, tankards of ale, pots, beads rings and brooches.

# So what do we think?

- There are 4 main theories, but you may have one of your own. Remember it must be backed up with evidence and knowledge of what was likely at that time.
- Use the facts and the evidence to infer your own conclusions. Don't look at the answers until you have created your own theory.