

Kenardington, Kent

Ἰννεhearðingætun

Church of Saint Mary

Earthwork

Grid ref TQ 975 322

Main stream of River Rother flowed N of Oxney, leaving tidal estuary S and NE of Appledore, finding its way to sea at Romney. (C16 Spanish vessel supposed to have bombarded Kenardington church).

On E shore of this estuary was camp within which Kenardington church now stands.

Fragments, possibly on E side where 600' remain, but evidently ran into arable field to S where it has been ploughed in. Piece visible no more than 8' scarp.

Hasted says that vanished S section rampart was carried in a loop up the slope, evidently to cover access by water from sea; and below near

stronghold, and possibly part of dam for inning marshland.

N arm (c. 550' long) better preserved, but not evident how far it extended W as scarping there may be recent work and opening in rampart on N (though appears to be original) may have been made for farm purposes.

Camp may never have been completed. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells of geweorc stormed 893 by Danes who found only half-constructed (samworht) fastness in which a few countrymen (cyrlic men) were stationed.

*I. Chalkley Gould, F.S.A.: Victoria County History
Ancient Earthworks*



The Domesday Monachorum records a church dedicated to St Mary at Kendardington in Saxon times, then paying an annual fee of 12d (5p) to the monks of Christchurch, Canterbury. This probably means that the monks originally founded the church here. The original church may well have been of wood, replaced by a stone building after the Norman Conquest

*from Church guide
pamphlet, 2007*



*Two views of NE edge of
churchyard showing
remains of rampart*